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A DC PUBLICATION

PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

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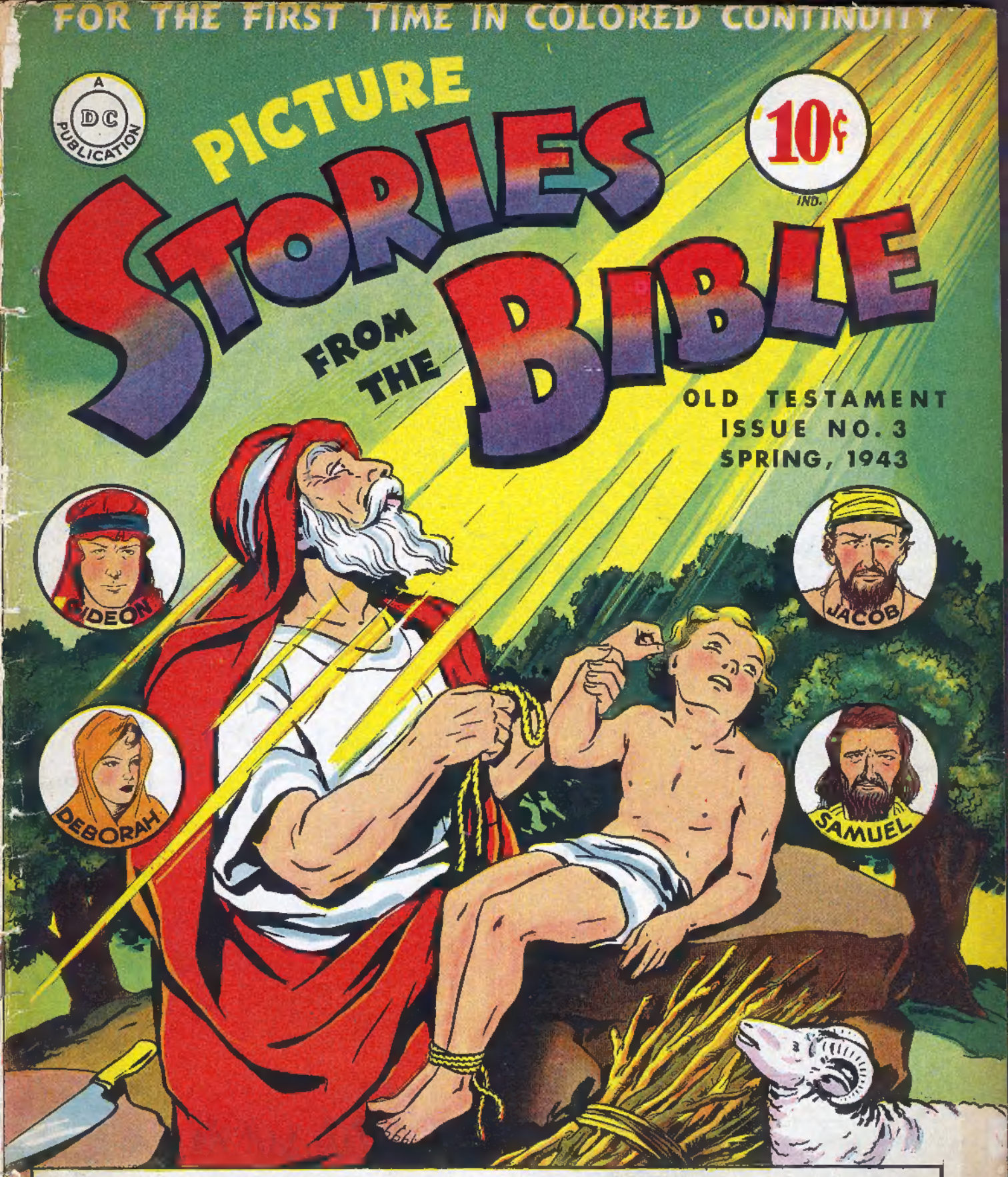
OLD TESTAMENT
ISSUE NO. 3
SPRING, 1943



Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, *but*...

"The angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said,... 'lay not thine hand upon the lad neither do thou any thing unto him'" Genesis 22-11-12.

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WHEN our American fighting forces sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea, they were really carrying liberty and democracy back to where these great ideals were born. For it was the lands bordering the Mediterranean where ancient civilizations flourished, which gave us the Bible, with its concepts of liberty, democracy and the dignity of the human being.

It is not strange, therefore, that after so many centuries, the eyes of the world should again be focused on these historic lands. Today, the armies of the United Nations camp on the earth once trod by Abraham, Isaac, David and the other great leaders of the Jews. Egypt, from which Moses led the children of Israel to freedom, is a prize which British armies saved by valiantly defeating the Germans and Italians on the sands of Libya. Up and down the Persian Gulf, not far from the supposed site of the Garden of Eden, American transports and freighters are sailing with precious cargoes of men, food and ammunition for our Allies in the Near East and in Asia.

The Bible and Democracy

Not long ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Our modern democratic way of life has its deepest roots in our great common religious tradition, which for ages past has taught to civilized mankind the dignity of the human being, his equality before God, and his responsibility in the making of a better and fairer world. In teaching this democratic faith to American children, we need the sustaining, buttressing aid of those great ethical religious teachings which are the heritage of our modern civilization. For not upon strength nor upon power alone, but upon the spirit of God shall our democracy be founded." Of course, President Roosevelt was referring to the Bible on whose teaching is based our whole civilization, which America and the other United Nations are fighting so desperately today to defend.

In This Issue

No one can be truly educated without a knowledge of the great stories of the Bible. And what pleasanter way is there to learn them, than through this medium of PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE?

(Continued on inside back cover)

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Picture Stories from the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT ISSUE NO. 3

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In preparing these stories from the Old Testament, the following official versions have been consulted: King James (Protestant); Douay (Catholic) and that of the Jewish Publication Society of America.

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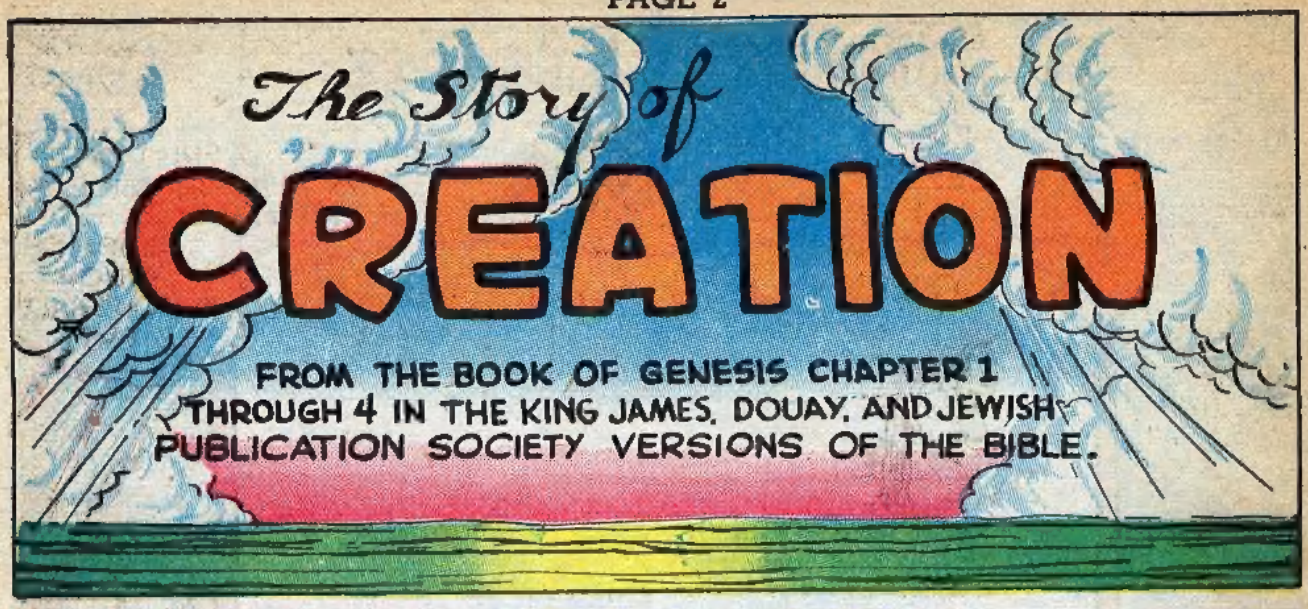
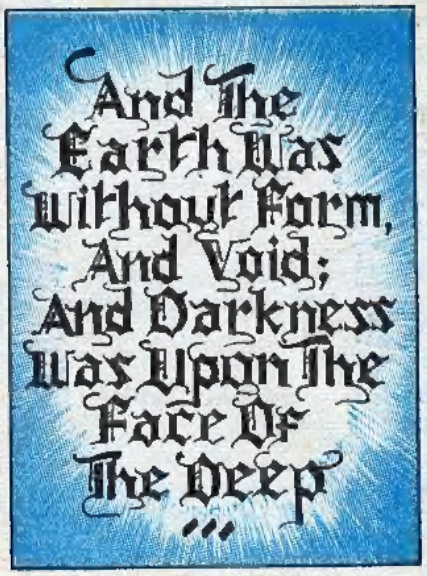

The Story of
CREATION
FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS CHAPTER 1 THROUGH 4 IN THE KING JAMES, DOUAY, AND JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE.

In The Beginning GOD Created The Heaven And The Earth

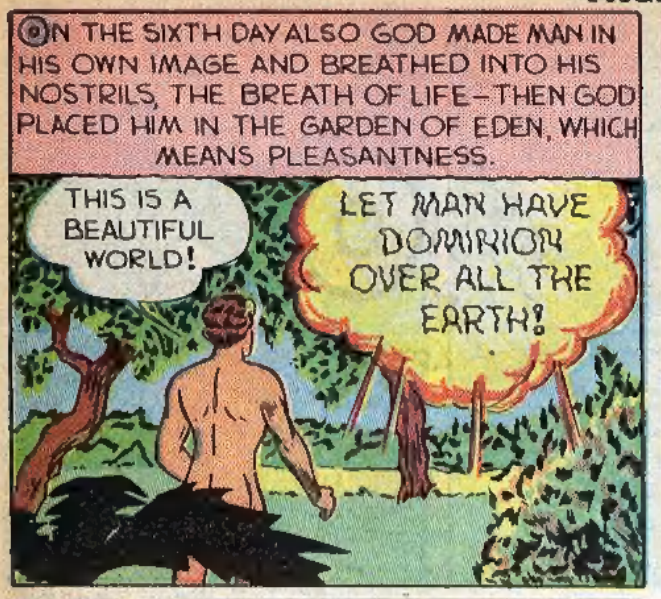

And The Earth Was Without Form, And Void; And Darkness Was Upon The Face Of The Deep ...

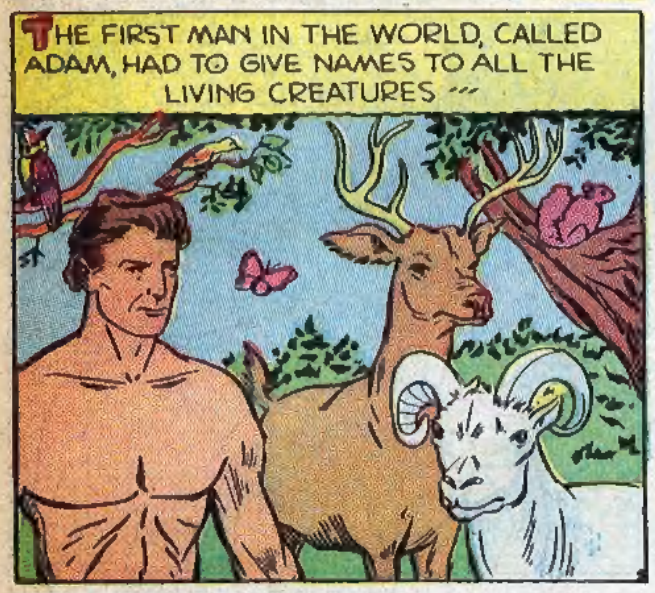
And God Said:-
LET THERE BE LIGHT!-AND THE LIGHT SHALL BE CALLED DAY AND DARKNESS NIGHT!

AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD ...

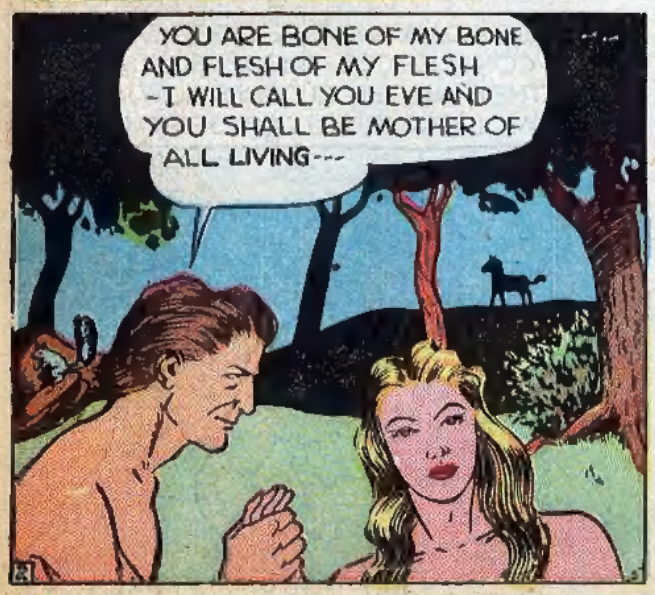
GOD MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH ON THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS, AND THEN ...
THERE SHALL BE VEGETATION--GRASS, AND HERBS AND FRUIT!

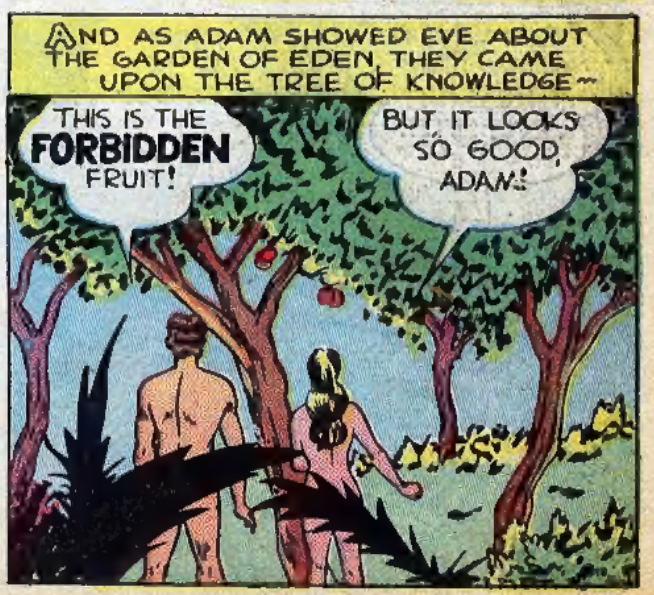
ON THE FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH DAYS, GOD CREATED THE SUN, MOON AND STARS, AND MADE THE FISH, BIRDS AND BEASTS!
BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY!





AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD ENDED HIS WORK AND RESTED—AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY—AND MADE IT HOLY—BECAUSE ON THAT DAY HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK

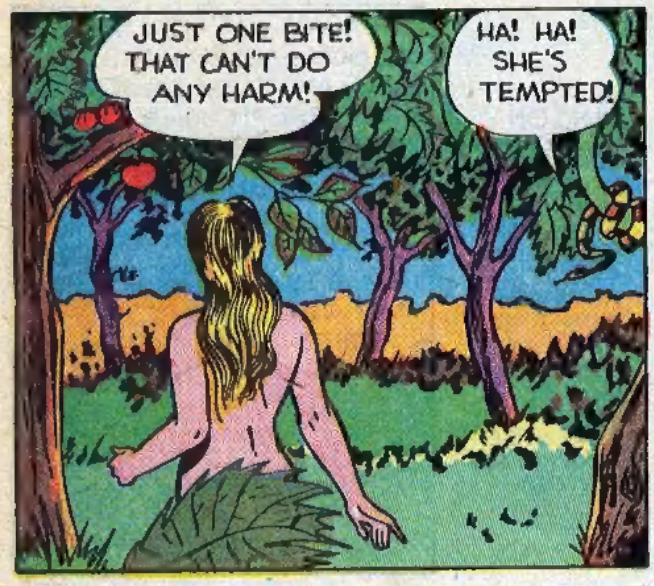




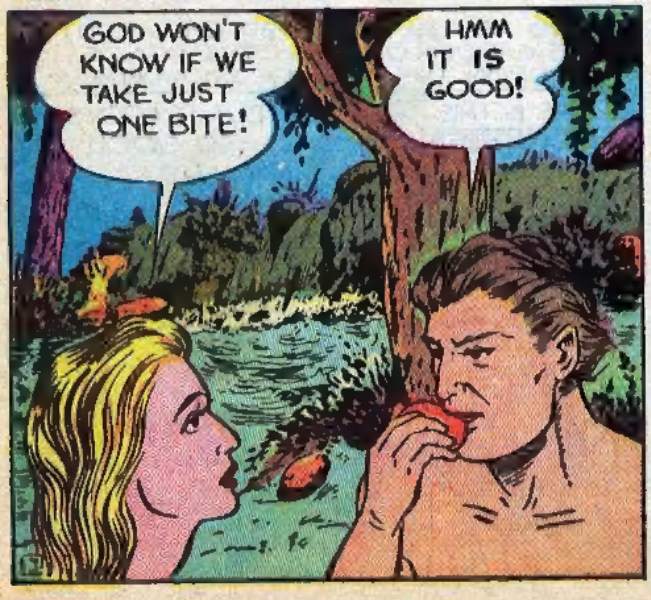
THE SERPENT, WHO HATED THE LORD GOD, TRIED TO MAKE EVE DISOBEY BY TELLING HER LIES ABOUT THE FRUIT--
SERPENT, WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
THAT FRUIT IS FORBIDDEN--BUT I TELL YOU IT IS GOOD!

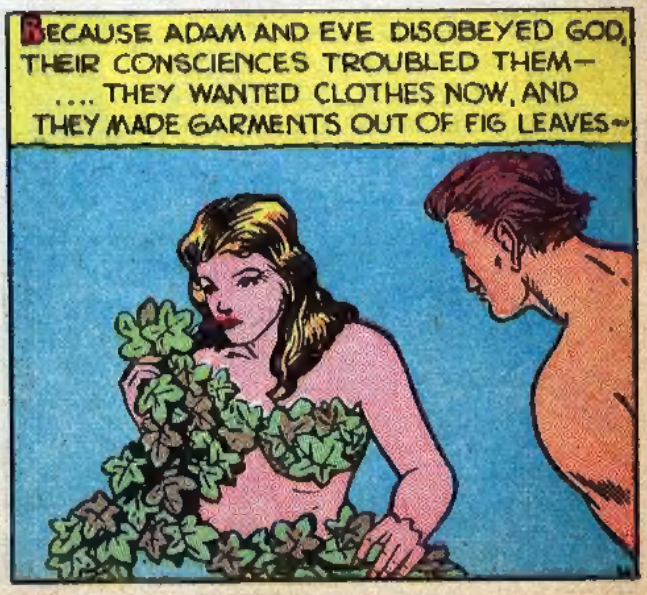
IF YOU EAT IT, YOU WILL BECOME VERY WISE AND KNOW ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD-TAKE A BITE!

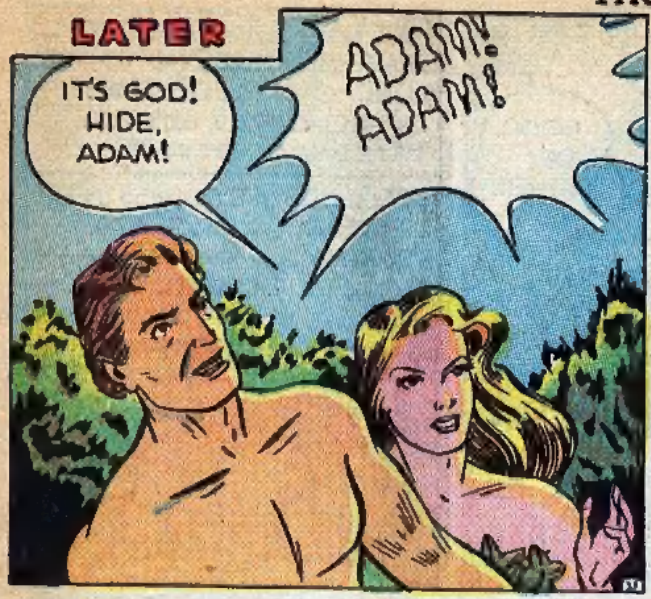
NO --THE LORD GOD SAID I MUST NOT!

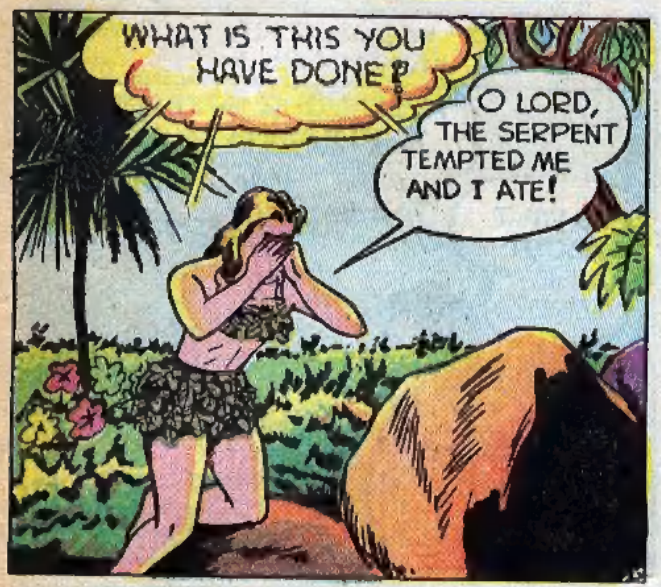

JUST ONE BITE! THAT CAN'T DO ANY HARM!
HA! HA! SHE'S TEMPTED!

ADAM! ADAM! WAIT--TASTE THIS FRUIT! IT'S GOOD!


GOD WON'T KNOW IF WE TAKE JUST ONE BITE!
HMM IT IS GOOD!

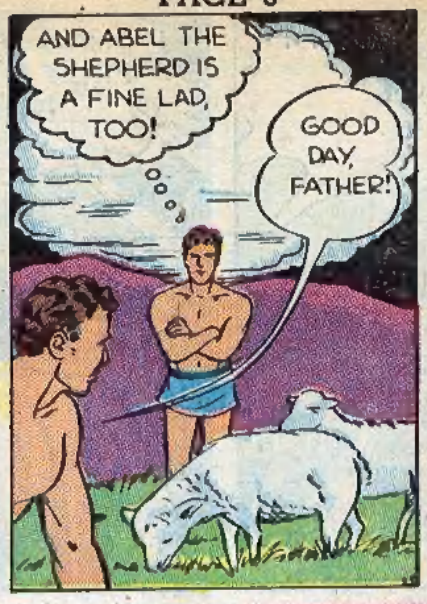

BECAUSE ADAM AND EVE DISOBEYED GOD, THEIR CONSCIENCES TROUBLED THEM-- .... THEY WANTED CLOTHES NOW, AND THEY MADE GARMENTS OUT OF FIG LEAVES--

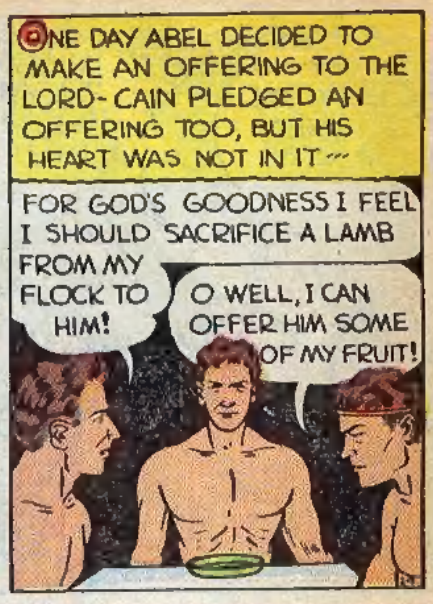


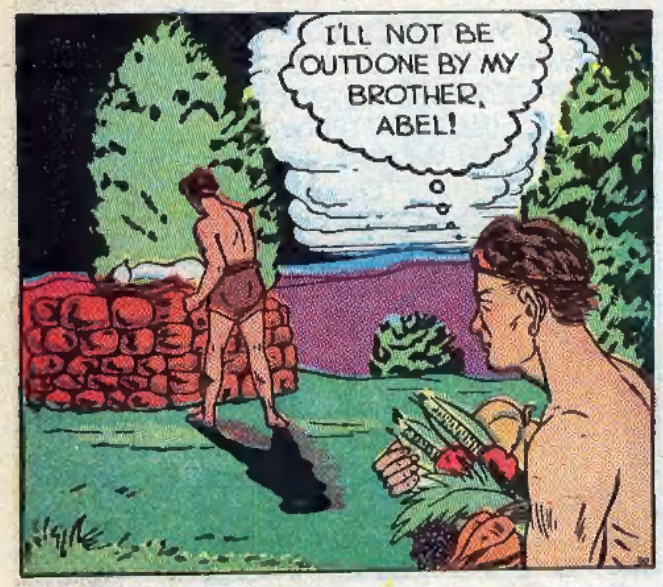


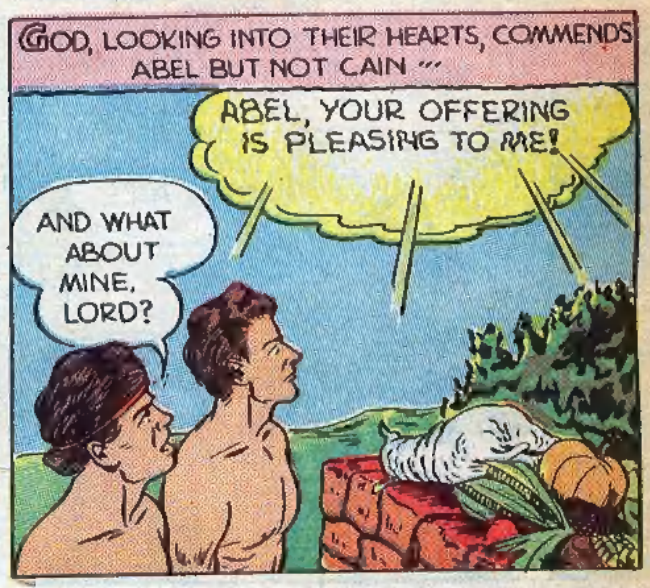
LATER WHEN THEY HAD LEFT EDEN, TWO SONS WERE BORN TO ADAM AND EVE-- THEIR NAMES WERE CAIN AND ABEL

AND SO THEY DID···
CAIN IS A GOOD SON!


AND ABEL THE SHEPHERD IS A FINE LAD, TOO!
GOOD DAY, FATHER!


ONE DAY ABEL DECIDED TO MAKE AN OFFERING TO THE LORD- CAIN PLEDGED AN OFFERING TOO, BUT HIS HEART WAS NOT IN IT···
FOR GOD'S GOODNESS I FEEL I SHOULD SACRIFICE A LAMB FROM MY FLOCK TO HIM!
O WELL, I CAN OFFER HIM SOME OF MY FRUIT!


I'LL NOT BE OUTDONE BY MY BROTHER, ABEL!


GOD, LOOKING INTO THEIR HEARTS, COMMENDS ABEL BUT NOT CAIN···
ABEL, YOUR OFFERING IS PLEASING TO ME!
AND WHAT ABOUT MINE, LORD?

CAIN SLINKS AWAY···
MY BROTHER IS THE FAVORED ONE OF GOD! MY OFFERING IS JUST AS GOOD!

WHY ARE YOU ANGRY, CAIN? IF YOU DO WELL, SHALL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED?
JUST WAIT!

LATER
CAIN! DON'T FEEL SO BADLY!
ABEL, COME INTO THE FIELD WITH ME! I MUST SEE YOU ALONE!

YES, CAIN! NOW?
NOW! -LET US GO AT ONCE!

THEY CAME TO A FIELD AND SUDDENLY CAIN ATTACKED AND KILLED ABEL ---
YOU ARE GOD'S FAVORITE! FOR THAT I HATE YOU!

WHERE'S ABEL, YOUR BROTHER?
AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

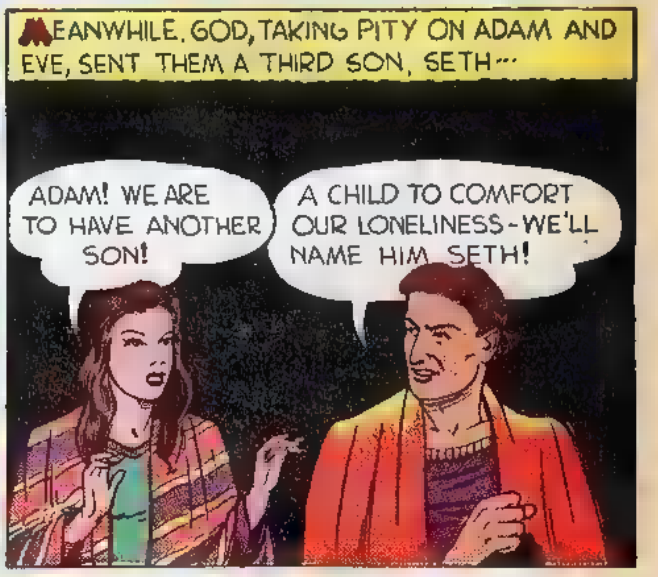
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? FOR THIS DEED YOU SHALL BE CURSED! - YOU SHALL BE A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND ON THE EARTH!

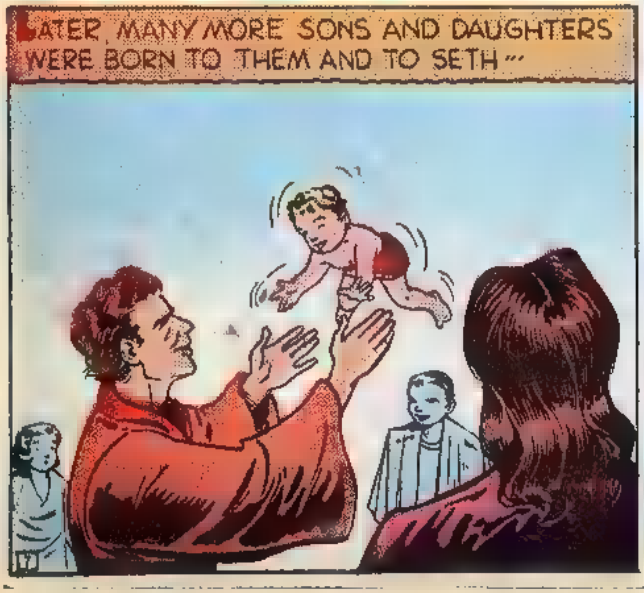
SO CAIN WENT OUT FROM THE LORD --
MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR - WHOEVER FINDS ME WILL KILL ME!
I SHALL SET A MARK UPON YOU LEST THEY DO THIS, AND IT SHALL BE THE BRAND OF CAIN!

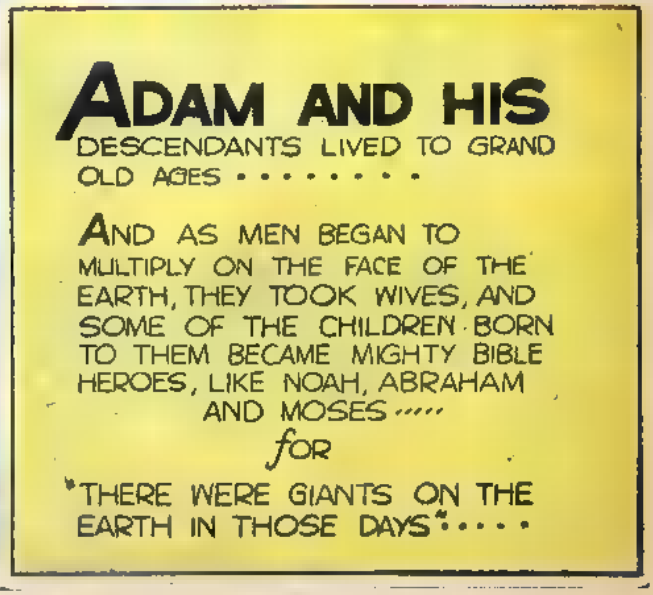
AFTER LONG WANDERINGS, CAIN WENT TO THE LAND OF NOD EAST OF EDEN. HERE HE FOUND AND TOOK UNTO HIMSELF A WIFE ...
I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE!
YES, CAIN, PERHAPS YOU MAY FIND PEACE!

A SON IS BORN TO THEM
AND YOUR FATHER HAS NAMED YOU ENOCH!

LATER ON, CAIN BUILT A CITY ...
I'M GOING TO BUILD A MIGHTY CITY, ENOCH, AND NAME IT AFTER YOU!
WILL HE REALLY DO IT?


MEANWHILE, GOD, TAKING PITY ON ADAM AND EVE, SENT THEM A THIRD SON, SETH ...
ADAM! WE ARE TO HAVE ANOTHER SON!
A CHILD TO COMFORT OUR LONELINESS - WE'LL NAME HIM SETH!


LATER, MANY MORE SONS AND DAUGHTERS WERE BORN TO THEM AND TO SETH ...

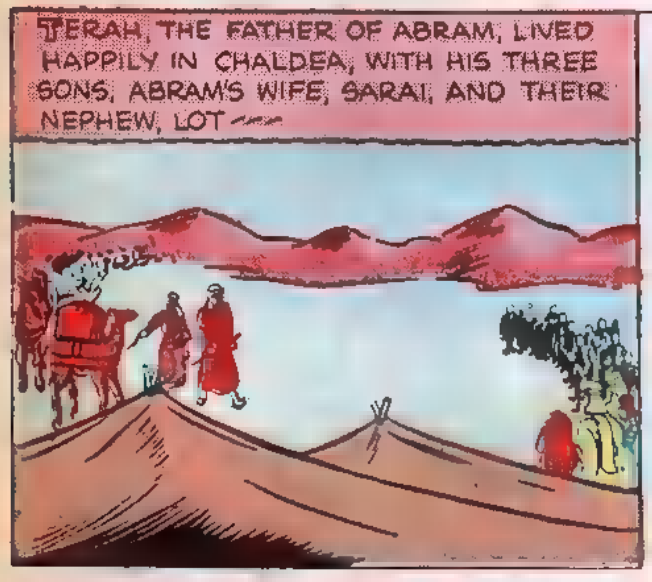

ADAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS LIVED TO GRAND OLD AGES .....
AND AS MEN BEGAN TO MULTIPLY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THEY TOOK WIVES, AND SOME OF THE CHILDREN BORN TO THEM BECAME MIGHTY BIBLE HEROES, LIKE NOAH, ABRAHAM AND MOSES .....
for
"THERE WERE GIANTS ON THE EARTH IN THOSE DAYS" ....

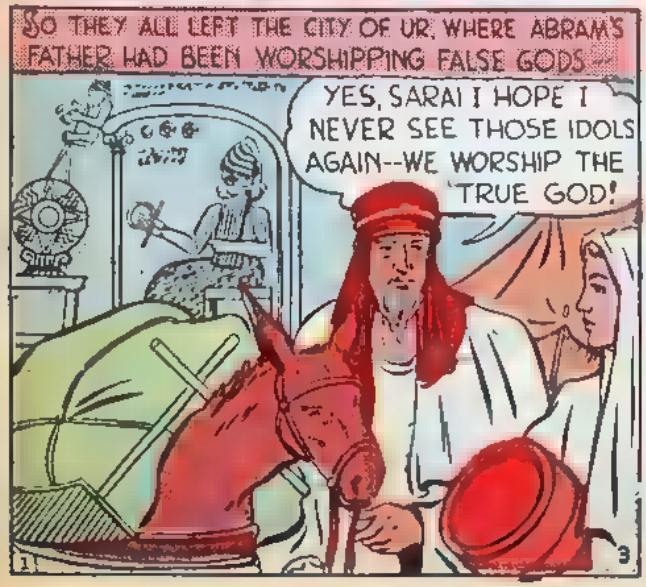
The Story of ABRAHAM

THE FOUNDER OF THE HEBREW NATION

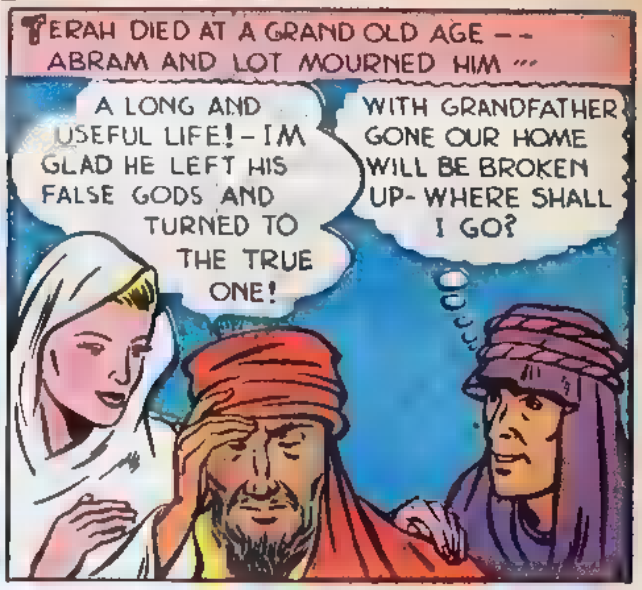
ABRAHAM WAS CALLED ABRAM ("ESTEEMED OR HIGH FATHER") IN THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS LIFE – HIS NAME WAS CHANGED TO ABRAHAM, MEANING "FATHER OF A MULTITUDE" WHEN GOD PROMISED HIM AND HIS DESCENDANTS THE LAND OF CANAAN ...

FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS CHAP. XI THRU CHAP. XV- KING JAMES, DOUAY AND J.P.S.A. VERSIONS ...

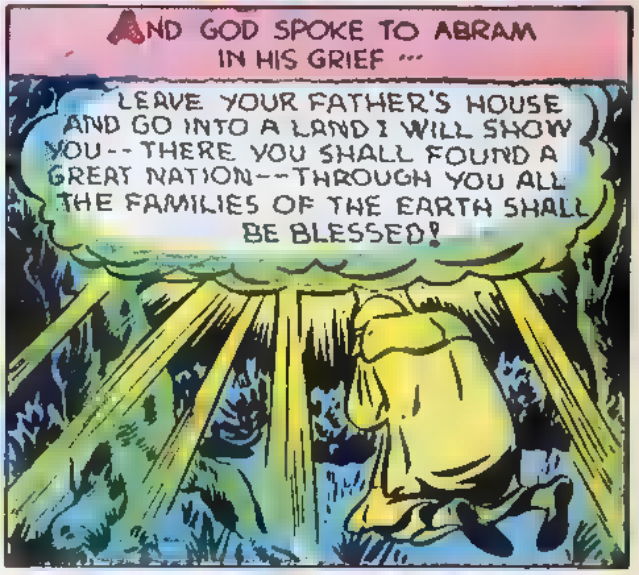




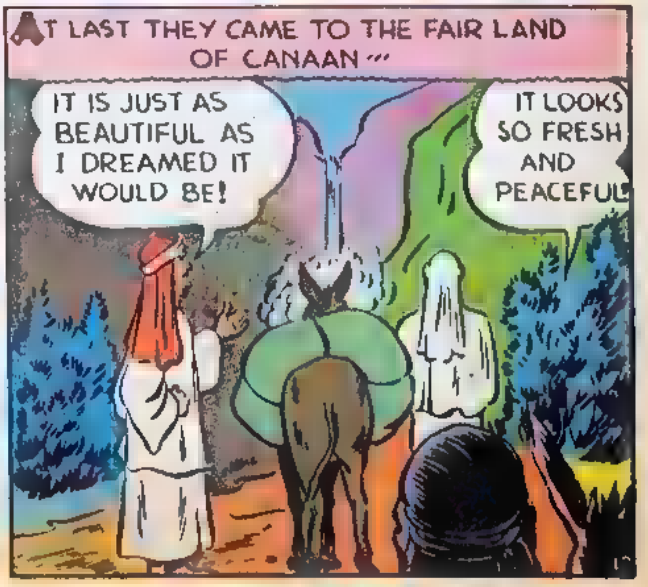
THEY FINALLY CAME TO THE LAND OF HARAN-HERE THEY PITCHED THEIR TENTS AND LIVED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS ...
I HAVE BEEN HAPPY HERE IN THIS NEW LAND BUT I KNOW I SHALL NOT BE WITH YOU MUCH LONGER!
DON'T SAY THAT, FATHER!

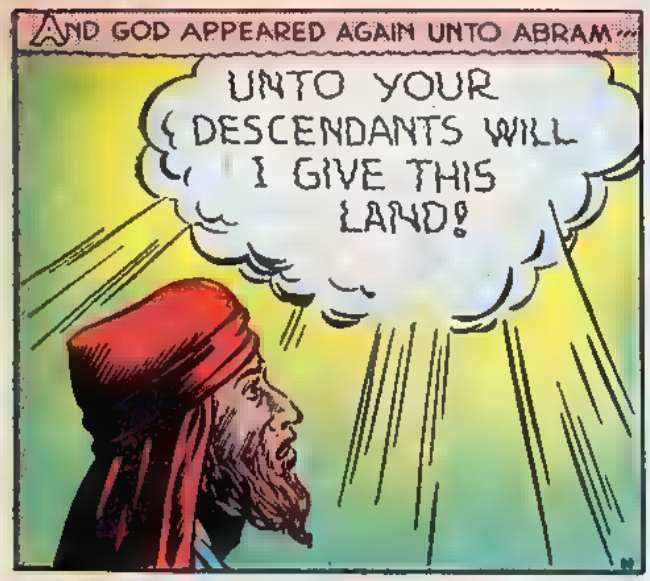

TERAH DIED AT A GRAND OLD AGE -- ABRAM AND LOT MOURNED HIM ...
A LONG AND USEFUL LIFE! - I'M GLAD HE LEFT HIS FALSE GODS AND TURNED TO THE TRUE ONE!
WITH GRANDFATHER GONE OUR HOME WILL BE BROKEN UP- WHERE SHALL I GO?

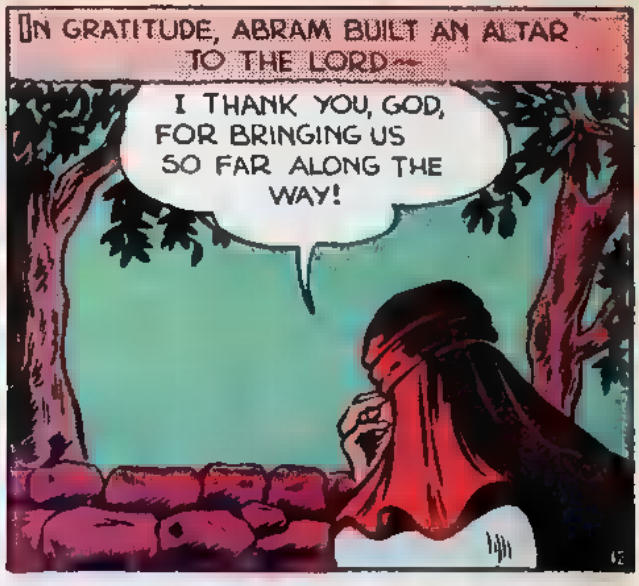
PLEASE STAY WITH US - YOU ARE MY BROTHER'S SON, LOT, AND AS DEAR TO ME AS MY OWN. INDEED-GOD HAS GIVEN US NO OTHER CHILDREN!
DO STAY, LOT!
I'LL STAY!

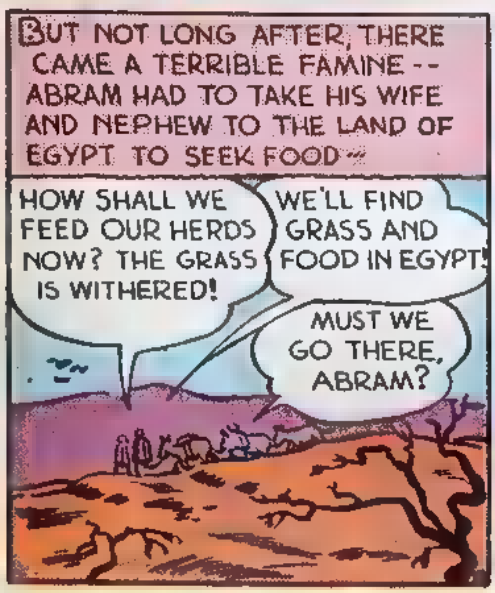

AND GOD SPOKE TO ABRAM IN HIS GRIEF ...
LEAVE YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE AND GO INTO A LAND I WILL SHOW YOU -- THERE YOU SHALL FOUND A GREAT NATION -- THROUGH YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED!

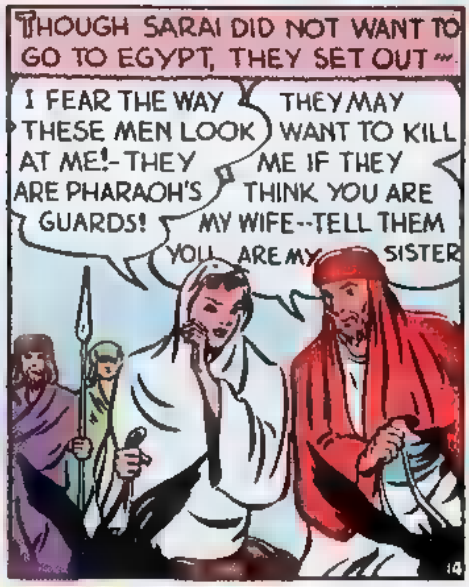
SO ABRAM SET OUT AGAIN WITH SARAI, LOT AND THEIR HERDS OF CATTLE AND SHEEP ...
WILL WE NEVER FIND THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE TO LIVE?
HAVE PATIENCE, LOT, GOD IS LEADING US!
I PRAY IT MAY BE TO A GREEN PASTURE LAND!

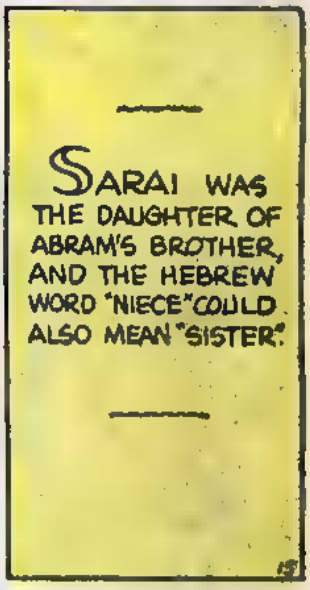

AT LAST THEY CAME TO THE FAIR LAND OF CANAAN ...
IT IS JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS I DREAMED IT WOULD BE!
IT LOOKS SO FRESH AND PEACEFUL!


AND GOD APPEARED AGAIN UNTO ABRAM ~
UNTO YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL I GIVE THIS LAND!

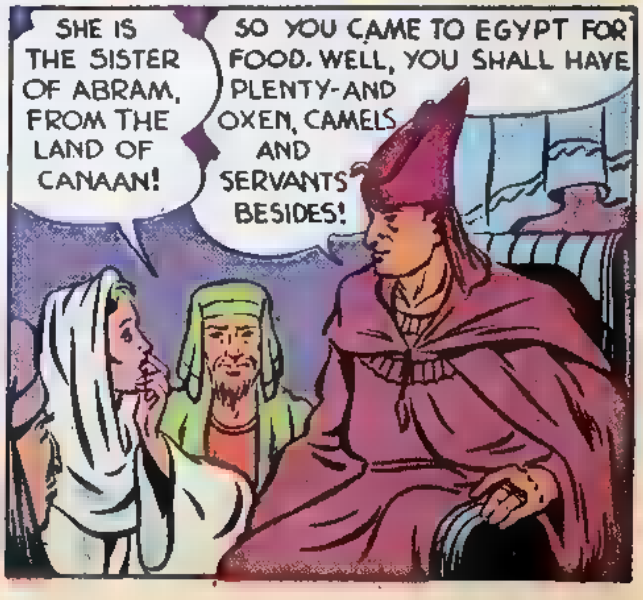

IN GRATITUDE, ABRAM BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD ~
I THANK YOU, GOD, FOR BRINGING US SO FAR ALONG THE WAY!

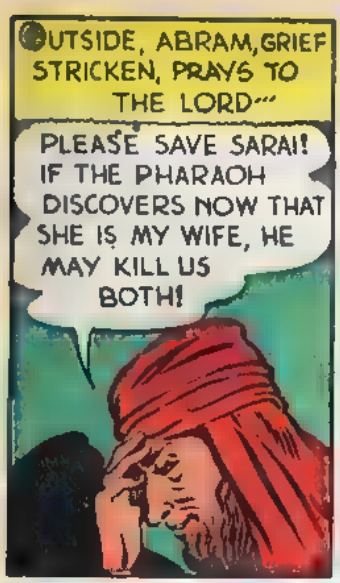

BUT NOT LONG AFTER, THERE CAME A TERRIBLE FAMINE -- ABRAM HAD TO TAKE HIS WIFE AND NEPHEW TO THE LAND OF EGYPT TO SEEK FOOD ~
HOW SHALL WE FEED OUR HERDS NOW? THE GRASS IS WITHERED!
WE'LL FIND GRASS AND FOOD IN EGYPT!
MUST WE GO THERE, ABRAM?


THOUGH SARAI DID NOT WANT TO GO TO EGYPT, THEY SET OUT ~
I FEAR THE WAY THESE MEN LOOK AT ME!-THEY ARE PHARAOH'S GUARDS!
THEY MAY WANT TO KILL ME IF THEY THINK YOU ARE MY WIFE--TELL THEM YOU ARE MY SISTER

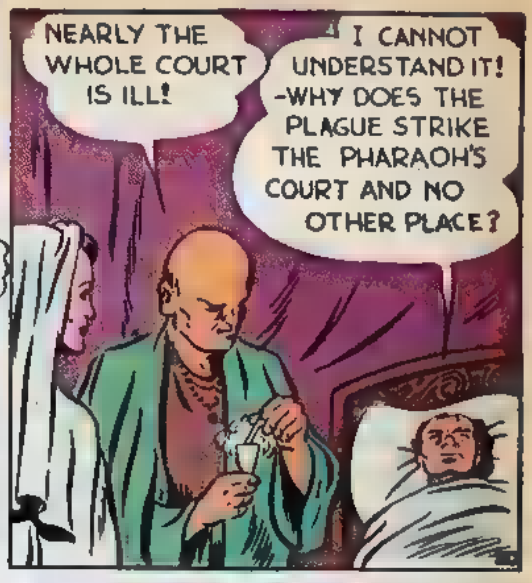

SARAI WAS THE DAUGHTER OF ABRAM'S BROTHER, AND THE HEBREW WORD "NIECE" COULD ALSO MEAN "SISTER."

PHARAOH'S MEN DID SEIZE THE LOVELY SARAI ~
COME WITH US!
BUT-
WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PHARAOH!

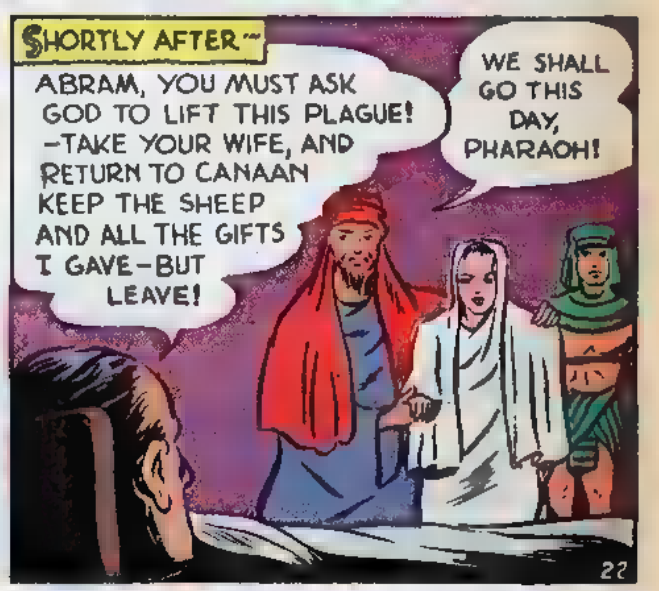

SHE IS THE SISTER OF ABRAM, FROM THE LAND OF CANAAN!
SO YOU CAME TO EGYPT FOR FOOD. WELL, YOU SHALL HAVE PLENTY-AND OXEN, CAMELS AND SERVANTS BESIDES!

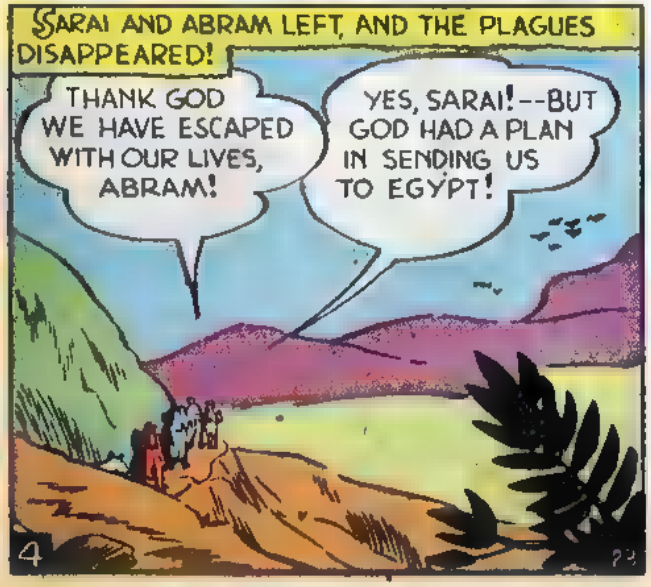

OUTSIDE, ABRAM, GRIEF STRICKEN, PRAYS TO THE LORD~~
PLEASE SAVE SARAI! IF THE PHARAOH DISCOVERS NOW THAT SHE IS MY WIFE, HE MAY KILL US BOTH!

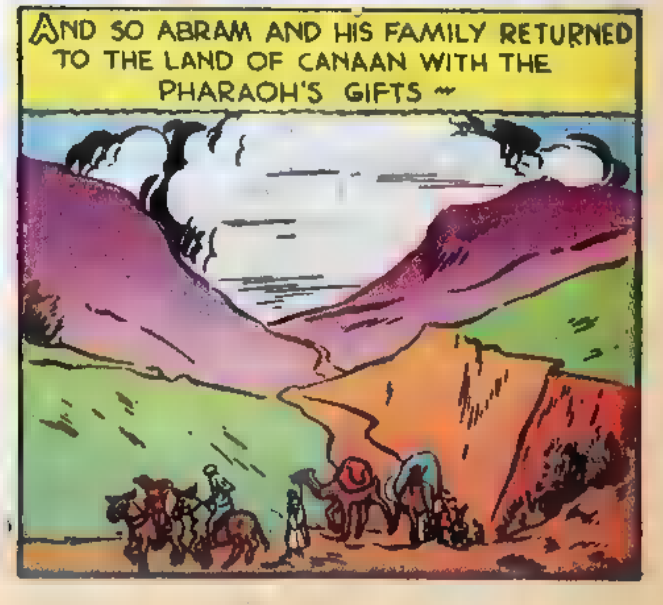
PHARAOH AND ALL HIS COURT WERE SUDDENLY STRICKEN WITH A GREAT PLAGUE~~
O SARAI, I'M SO ILL-CALL MY PHYSICIAN! -PERHAPS I'VE BEEN POISONED!
YES, SIRE!
NOT POISONED, PUNISHED!
19

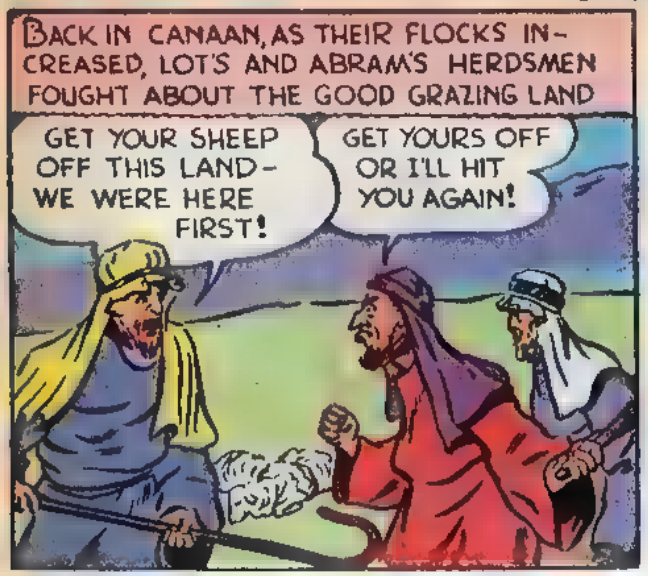

NEARLY THE WHOLE COURT IS ILL!
I CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT! -WHY DOES THE PLAGUE STRIKE THE PHARAOH'S COURT AND NO OTHER PLACE?

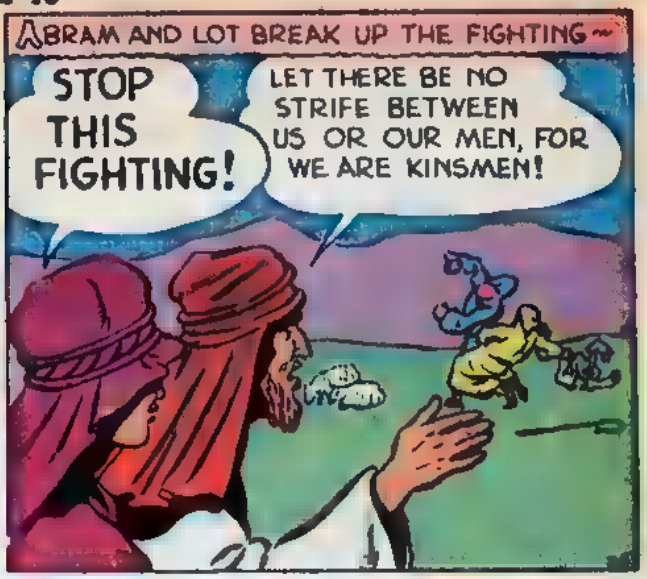
I WILL TELL YOU-I AM ABRAM'S WIFE -NOT HIS SISTER!
WHY WAS I NOT TOLD OF THIS! GUARDS, BRING ABRAM TO ME!
21


SHORTLY AFTER~~
ABRAM, YOU MUST ASK GOD TO LIFT THIS PLAGUE! -TAKE YOUR WIFE, AND RETURN TO CANAAN KEEP THE SHEEP AND ALL THE GIFTS I GAVE-BUT LEAVE!
WE SHALL GO THIS DAY, PHARAOH!
22

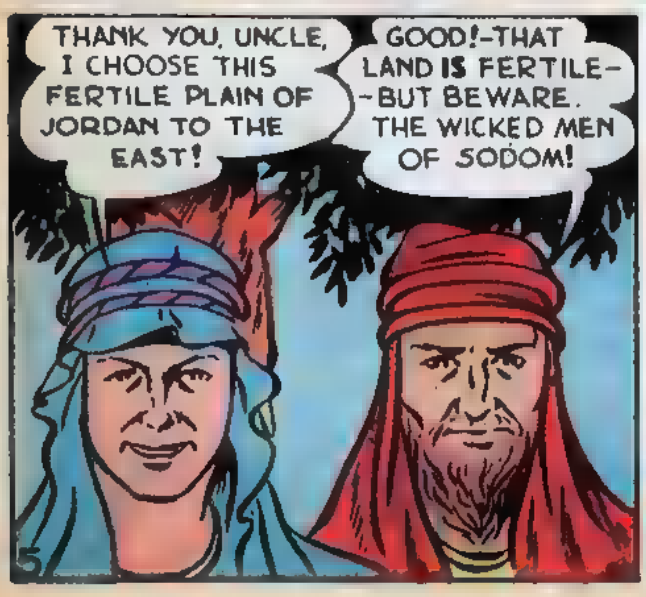

SARAI AND ABRAM LEFT, AND THE PLAGUES DISAPPEARED!
THANK GOD WE HAVE ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES, ABRAM!
YES, SARAI!--BUT GOD HAD A PLAN IN SENDING US TO EGYPT!
4
23

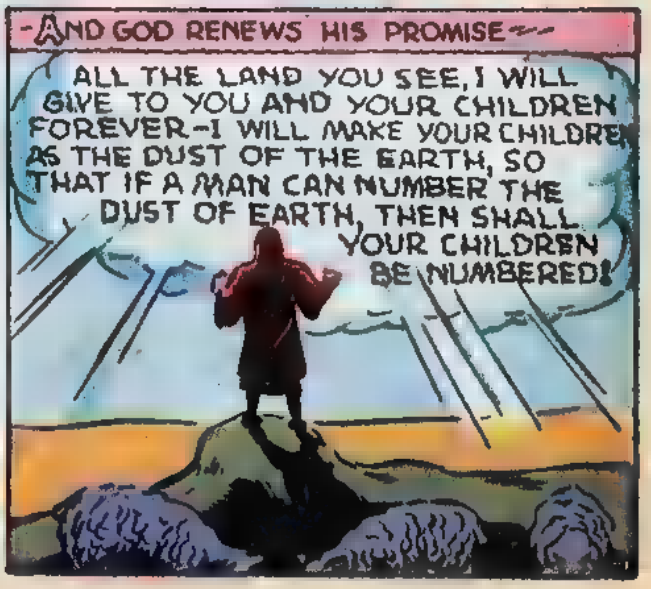

AND SO ABRAM AND HIS FAMILY RETURNED TO THE LAND OF CANAAN WITH THE PHARAOH'S GIFTS ~~

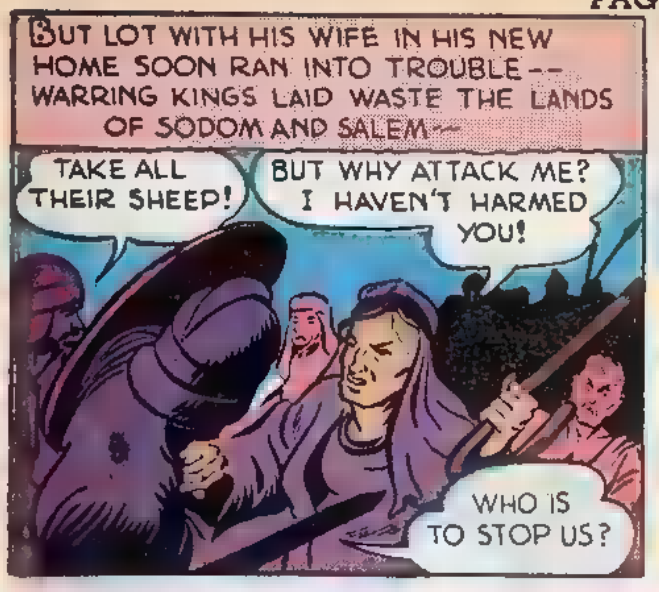

BACK IN CANAAN, AS THEIR FLOCKS INCREASED, LOT'S AND ABRAM'S HERDSMEN FOUGHT ABOUT THE GOOD GRAZING LAND
GET YOUR SHEEP OFF THIS LAND - WE WERE HERE FIRST!
GET YOURS OFF OR I'LL HIT YOU AGAIN!


ABRAM AND LOT BREAK UP THE FIGHTING—
STOP THIS FIGHTING!
LET THERE BE NO STRIFE BETWEEN US OR OUR MEN, FOR WE ARE KINSMEN!

SEE, LOT, THERE IS PLENTY OF LAND FOR US BOTH - YOU TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

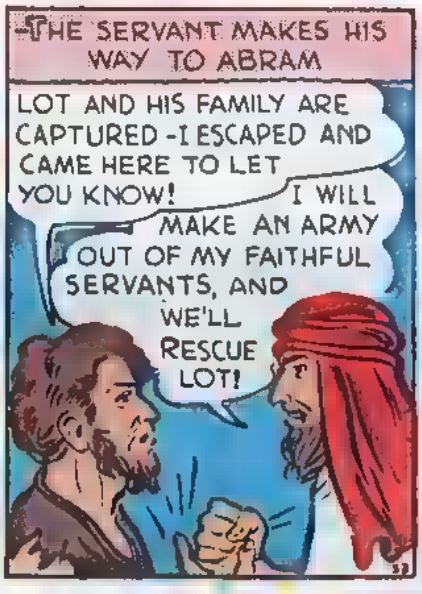

THANK YOU, UNCLE, I CHOOSE THIS FERTILE PLAIN OF JORDAN TO THE EAST!
GOOD! - THAT LAND IS FERTILE - BUT BEWARE. THE WICKED MEN OF SODOM!


AND GOD RENEWS HIS PROMISE—
ALL THE LAND YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE TO YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN FOREVER - I WILL MAKE YOUR CHILDREN AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH, SO THAT IF A MAN CAN NUMBER THE DUST OF EARTH, THEN SHALL YOUR CHILDREN BE NUMBERED!


BUT LOT WITH HIS WIFE IN HIS NEW HOME SOON RAN INTO TROUBLE -- WARRING KINGS LAID WASTE THE LANDS OF SODOM AND SALEM ~~
TAKE ALL THEIR SHEEP!
BUT WHY ATTACK ME? I HAVEN'T HARMED YOU!
WHO IS TO STOP US?

LOT IS TAKEN PRISONER ~~
HERE'S A GOOD STRONG ONE - I'LL TAKE HIM FOR MY SLAVE!
OH, LOT, WHERE ARE THEY TAKING YOU?
GET WORD TO ABRAM - HE'LL SAVE US!

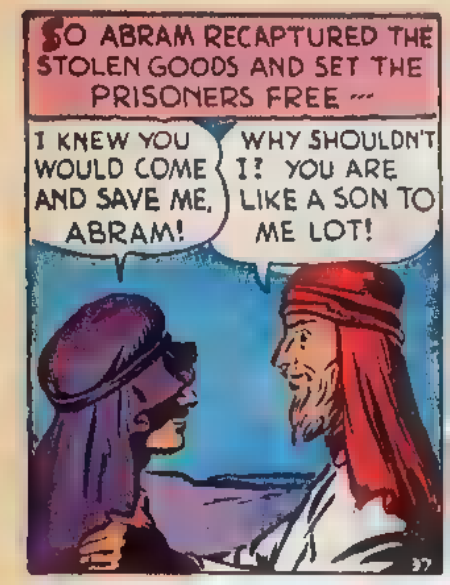
ONE OF LOT'S SERVANTS MANAGES TO ESCAPE ~~
IT'S GOOD THEY DON'T WATCH ME AS CLOSELY AS LOT-NOW TO FREE MY FEET AND FETCH HELP!

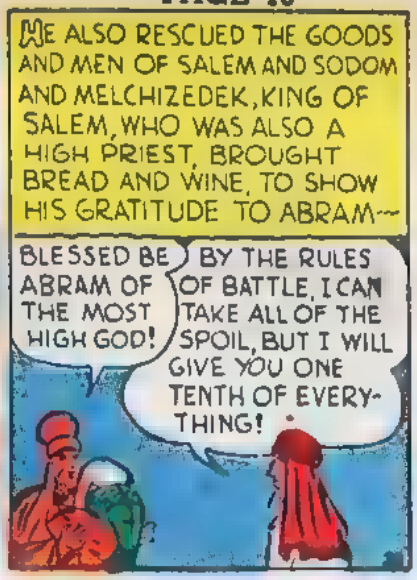

THE SERVANT MAKES HIS WAY TO ABRAM
LOT AND HIS FAMILY ARE CAPTURED - I ESCAPED AND CAME HERE TO LET YOU KNOW!
I WILL MAKE AN ARMY OUT OF MY FAITHFUL SERVANTS, AND WE'LL RESCUE LOT!

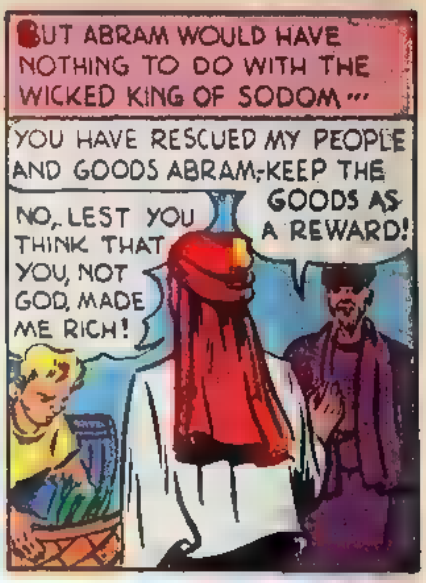
ABRAM, WITH HIS ARMED SERVANTS, RIDES TO RESCUE THE PRISONERS ~~

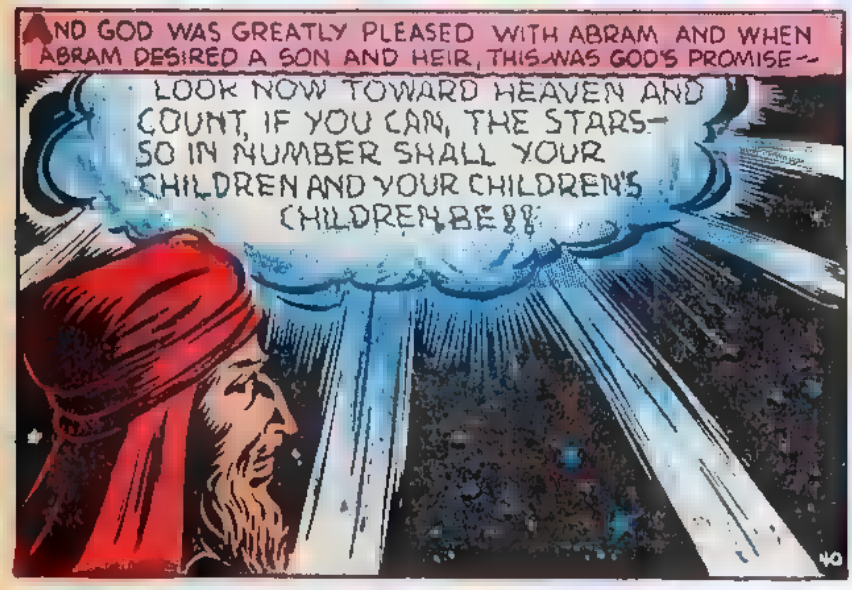
TAKE HALF THE MEN AND ATTACK FROM THE RIGHT, WHILE I STRIKE ON THE LEFT!
FINE! WE'LL THROW THEM INTO A PANIC!
35

THE NIGHT ATTACK CARRIES ALL BEFORE IT ~~
RUN! FLEE! WE ARE OVERPOWERED!
36

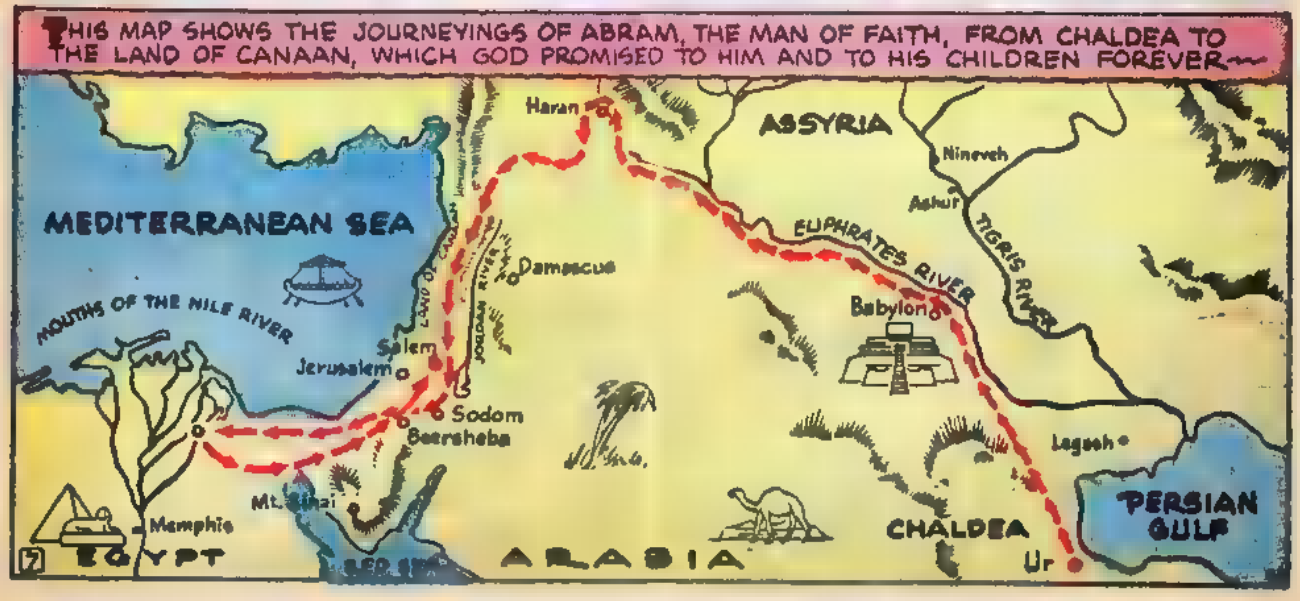

SO ABRAM RECAPTURED THE STOLEN GOODS AND SET THE PRISONERS FREE ---
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME AND SAVE ME, ABRAM!
WHY SHOULDN'T I? YOU ARE LIKE A SON TO ME LOT!


HE ALSO RESCUED THE GOODS AND MEN OF SALEM AND SODOM AND MELCHIZEDEK, KING OF SALEM, WHO WAS ALSO A HIGH PRIEST, BROUGHT BREAD AND WINE, TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE TO ABRAM---
BLESSED BE ABRAM OF THE MOST HIGH GOD!
BY THE RULES OF BATTLE, I CAN TAKE ALL OF THE SPOIL, BUT I WILL GIVE YOU ONE TENTH OF EVERYTHING!


BUT ABRAM WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WICKED KING OF SODOM ---
YOU HAVE RESCUED MY PEOPLE AND GOODS ABRAM;-KEEP THE GOODS AS A REWARD!
NO, LEST YOU THINK THAT YOU, NOT GOD, MADE ME RICH!


AND GOD WAS GREATLY PLEASED WITH ABRAM AND WHEN ABRAM DESIRED A SON AND HEIR, THIS WAS GOD'S PROMISE---
LOOK NOW TOWARD HEAVEN AND COUNT, IF YOU CAN, THE STARS-SO IN NUMBER SHALL YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN BE!!

A DEEP SLEEP FELL ON ABRAM, AS GOD'S VOICE CONTINUED---
YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE STRANGERS AND OPPRESSED IN A LAND THAT IS NOT THEIRS BUT THEY SHALL GO FORTH AGAIN,-FOR I SHALL GIVE THEM THIS LAND--THIS IS MY COVENANT!


THIS MAP SHOWS THE JOURNEYINGS OF ABRAM, THE MAN OF FAITH, FROM CHALDEA TO THE LAND OF CANAAN, WHICH GOD PROMISED TO HIM AND TO HIS CHILDREN FOREVER---
Haran
ASSYRIA
Nineveh
Ashur
TIGRIS RIVER
EUPHRATES RIVER
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
MOUTHS OF THE NILE RIVER
Damascus
Babylon
Salem
Jerusalem
Sodom
Beersheba
Lagash
Mt. Sinai
Memphis
EGYPT
ARABIA
CHALDEA
Ur
PERSIAN GULF

The Story of ABRAHAM

Part two

ABRAHAM, THROUGH HIS WISDOM AND COURAGE, BECAME A GREAT LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE, BUT ONE THING ONLY WAS HE DISAPPOINTED – HE HAD NO SON

FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS, CHAP. 16 THRU 21 KING JAMES, DOUAY AND JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

SARAI, FEARING THAT SHE COULD NOT HAVE A SON, URGED ABRAM TO TAKE A SECOND WIFE, ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE COUNTRY...

TAKE ANOTHER WIFE, ABRAM – HAGAR, MY EGYPTIAN MAID – PERHAPS WE MAY OBTAIN CHILDREN BY HER!

IF YOU WISH IT, SARAI!

AND SARAI AND I WILL TREAT YOUR CHILDREN AS OUR OWN, HAGAR – THEY SHALL BEAR OUR NAME, AND INHERIT ALL MY POSSESSIONS!

SO BE IT!

BUT AFTERWARD HAGAR BEGAN TO DESPISE HER MISTRESS SARAI...

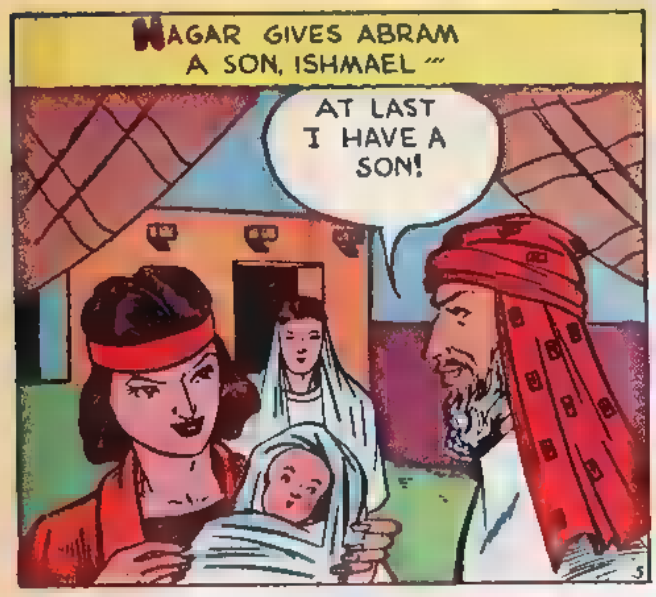
SEND HER AWAY – I CANNOT BEAR TO HAVE HER HERE ANYMORE!

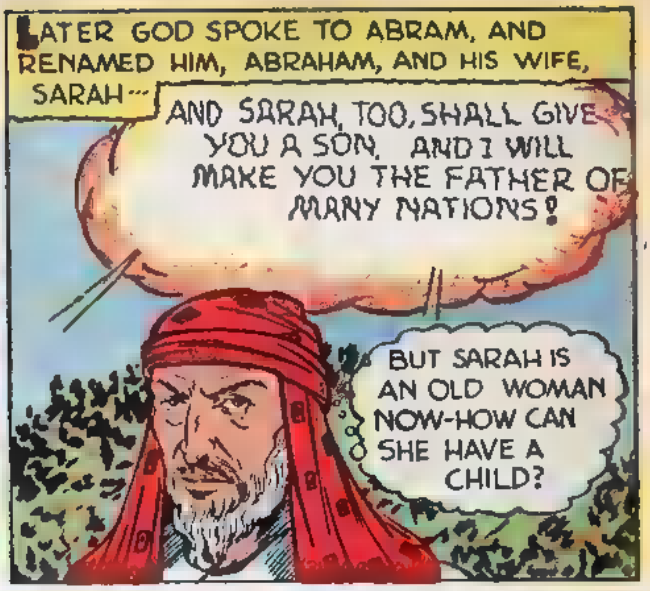
DO AS YOU THINK BEST!

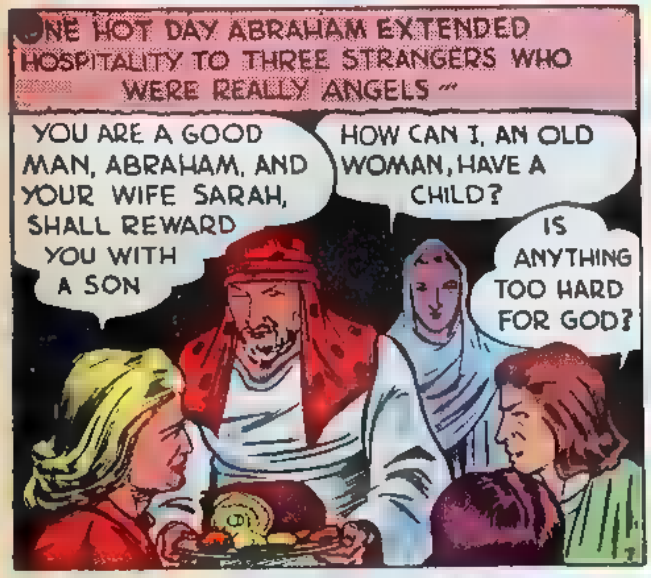
WHEN SARAI PUNISHED HAGAR FOR HER INSOLENCE HAGAR FLED INTO THE WILDERNESS...

SARAI HAS BEEN CRUEL TO ME – I COULD NOT HELP BUT RUN AWAY--

RETURN TO SARAI AND DO AS SHE TELLS YOU – YOU SHALL HAVE A CHILD – CALL HIM ISHMAEL – FOR THAT MEANS THE LORD HAS HEARD YOU IN YOUR TROUBLE!

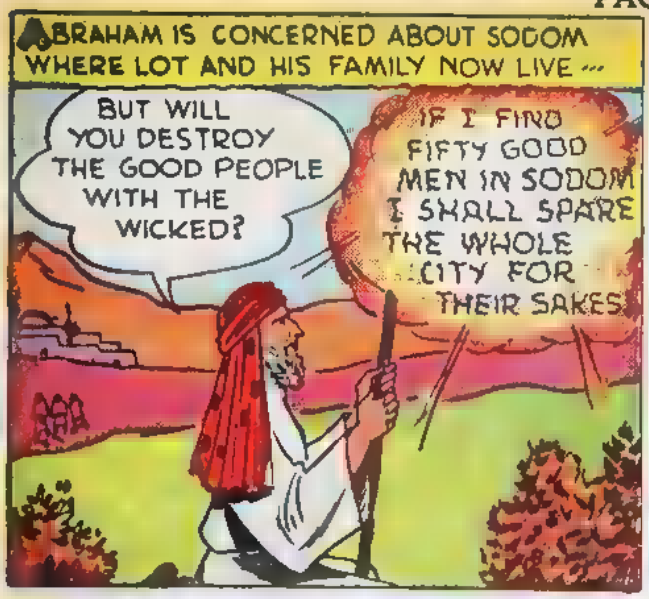

HAGAR GIVES ABRAM A SON, ISHMAEL ...
AT LAST I HAVE A SON!

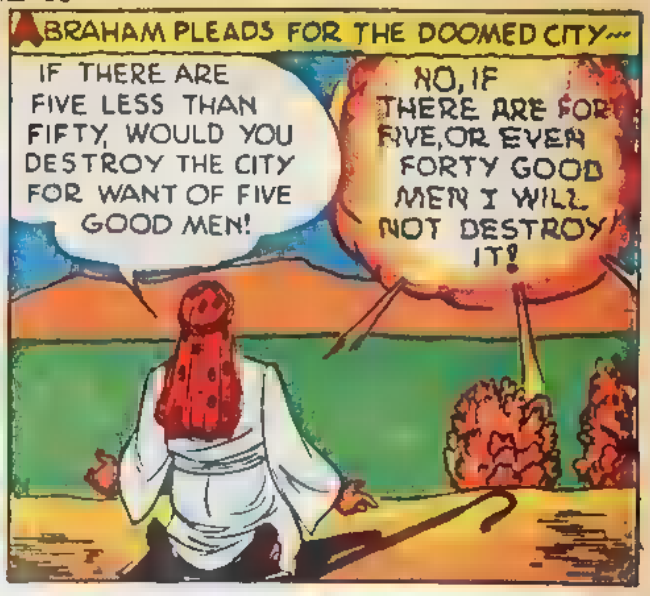

LATER GOD SPOKE TO ABRAM, AND RENAMED HIM, ABRAHAM, AND HIS WIFE, SARAH ...
AND SARAH, TOO, SHALL GIVE YOU A SON. AND I WILL MAKE YOU THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS!
BUT SARAH IS AN OLD WOMAN NOW-HOW CAN SHE HAVE A CHILD?

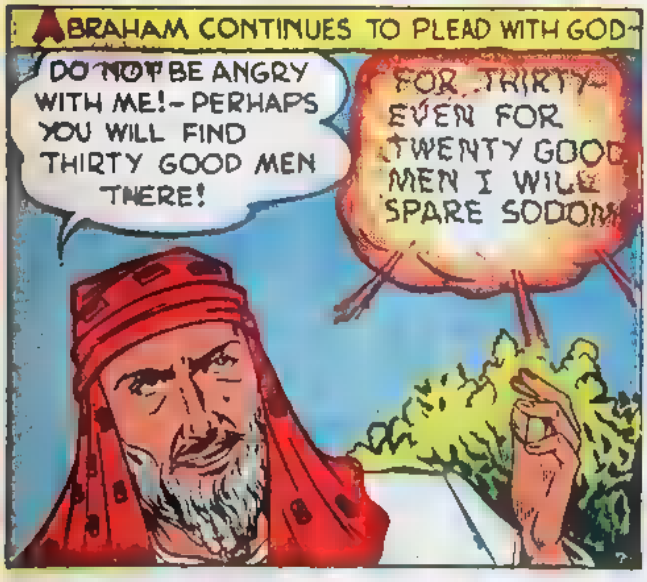

ONE HOT DAY ABRAHAM EXTENDED HOSPITALITY TO THREE STRANGERS WHO WERE REALLY ANGELS ...
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN, ABRAHAM, AND YOUR WIFE SARAH, SHALL REWARD YOU WITH A SON
HOW CAN I, AN OLD WOMAN, HAVE A CHILD?
IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD?

LATER..
OUR THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY!
WHICH IS THE ROAD TO SODOM?
I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY!

THE ANGELS GO ON THEIR WAY TOWARD THE WICKED CITY, BUT THE VOICE OF GOD HALTS ABRAHAM ON THE ROAD...
LISTEN, ABRAHAM, I PLAN TO DESTROY THAT WICKED CITY OF SODOM!

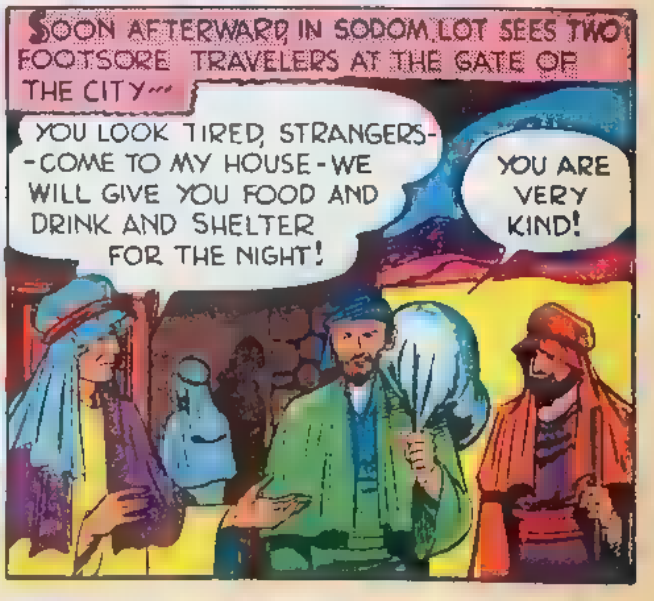

ABRAHAM IS CONCERNED ABOUT SODOM WHERE LOT AND HIS FAMILY NOW LIVE ...
BUT WILL YOU DESTROY THE GOOD PEOPLE WITH THE WICKED?
IF I FIND FIFTY GOOD MEN IN SODOM I SHALL SPARE THE WHOLE CITY FOR THEIR SAKES!


ABRAHAM PLEADS FOR THE DOOMED CITY...
IF THERE ARE FIVE LESS THAN FIFTY, WOULD YOU DESTROY THE CITY FOR WANT OF FIVE GOOD MEN!
NO, IF THERE ARE FORTY FIVE, OR EVEN FORTY GOOD MEN I WILL NOT DESTROY IT!


ABRAHAM CONTINUES TO PLEAD WITH GOD-
DO NOT BE ANGRY WITH ME!- PERHAPS YOU WILL FIND THIRTY GOOD MEN THERE!
FOR THIRTY- EVEN FOR TWENTY GOOD MEN I WILL SPARE SODOM!

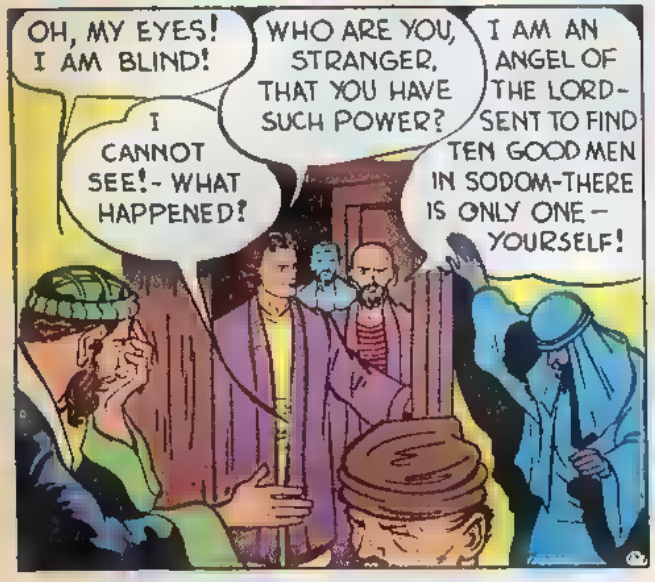
BUT LORD, SUPPOSE THERE ARE ONLY TEN GOOD MEN IN SODOM!

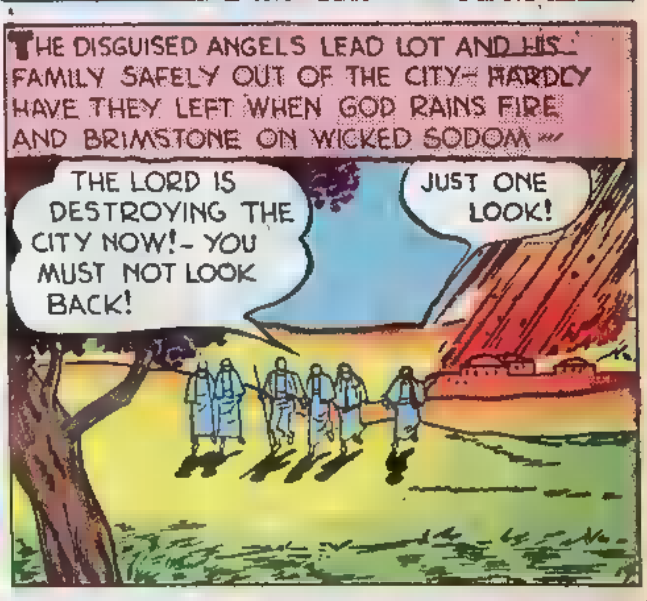
GOD GRANTS ABRAM'S LAST PLEA...
EVEN FOR TEN I WILL SPARE THE CITY!
THANK YOU, LORD!


SOON AFTERWARD, IN SODOM, LOT SEES TWO FOOTSORE TRAVELERS AT THE GATE OF THE CITY...
YOU LOOK TIRED, STRANGERS- -COME TO MY HOUSE - WE WILL GIVE YOU FOOD AND DRINK AND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT!
YOU ARE VERY KIND!

BUT THE PEOPLE OF SODOM EYE THE STRANGERS WITH COLD SUSPICION ---
WHO ARE THESE STRANGERS?
I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE! - MAYBE THEY ARE PLOTTING AGAINST US!
THEY ARE GOING TO LOT'S HOUSE!

THAT NIGHT--
EAT HEARTY, STRAN--OH! WHAT'S THAT!
OPEN UP!
WE WANT THOSE MEN-WE WILL BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
THEY ARE TRYING TO BREAK IN!
DON'T BE AFRAID I'LL SMITE THEM ALL WITH BLINDNESS!

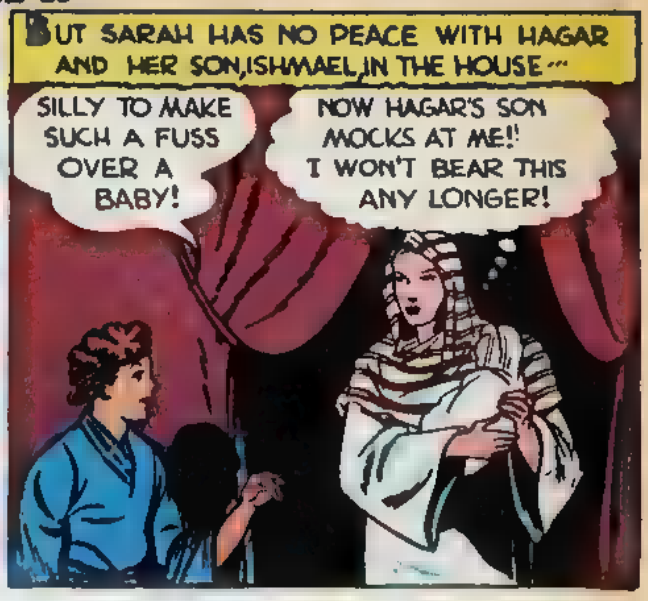

OH, MY EYES! I AM BLIND!
I CANNOT SEE! - WHAT HAPPENED!
WHO ARE YOU, STRANGER, THAT YOU HAVE SUCH POWER?
I AM AN ANGEL OF THE LORD - SENT TO FIND TEN GOOD MEN IN SODOM-THERE IS ONLY ONE - YOURSELF!


THE DISGUISED ANGELS LEAD LOT AND HIS FAMILY SAFELY OUT OF THE CITY - HARDLY HAVE THEY LEFT WHEN GOD RAINS FIRE AND BRIMSTONE ON WICKED SODOM ---
THE LORD IS DESTROYING THE CITY NOW! - YOU MUST NOT LOOK BACK!
JUST ONE LOOK!

AND LOT'S WIFE, AS PUNISHMENT FOR LOOKING BACK ON SODOM, IS TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT ---

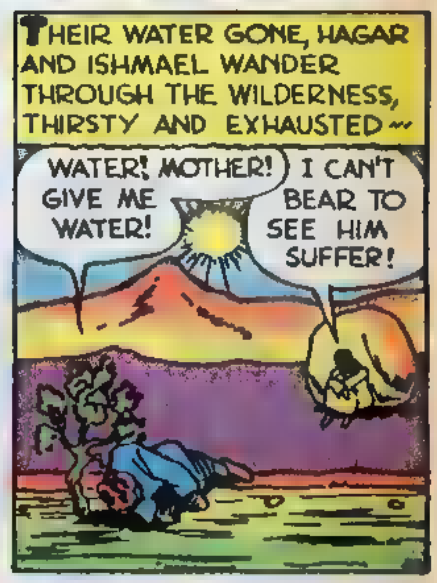
HAVING TRIED IN VAIN TO SAVE THE SINFUL CITY OF SODOM--ABRAHAM TURNS WEARILY HOME ---
I TRIED MY BEST SARAH - AT LEAST LOT IS SAVED!

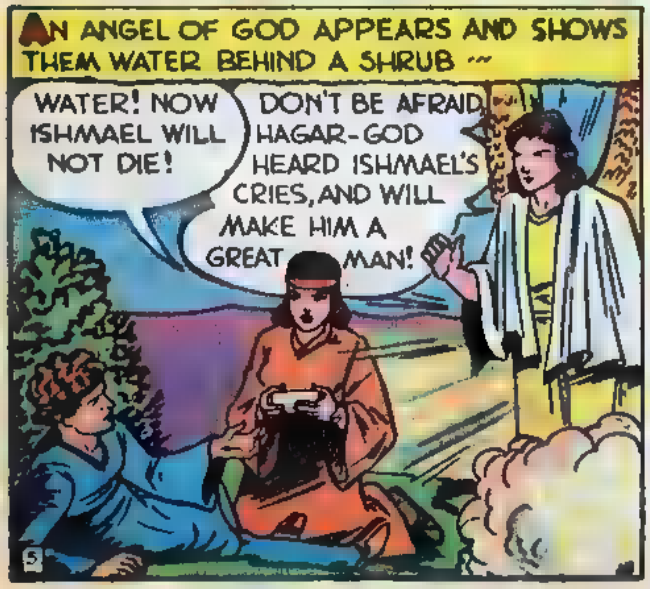
SOMETIME LATER ~~
IT'S WONDERFUL -I HAVE A BABY, ISAAC--AS GOD PROMISED!
I AM SO PROUD!

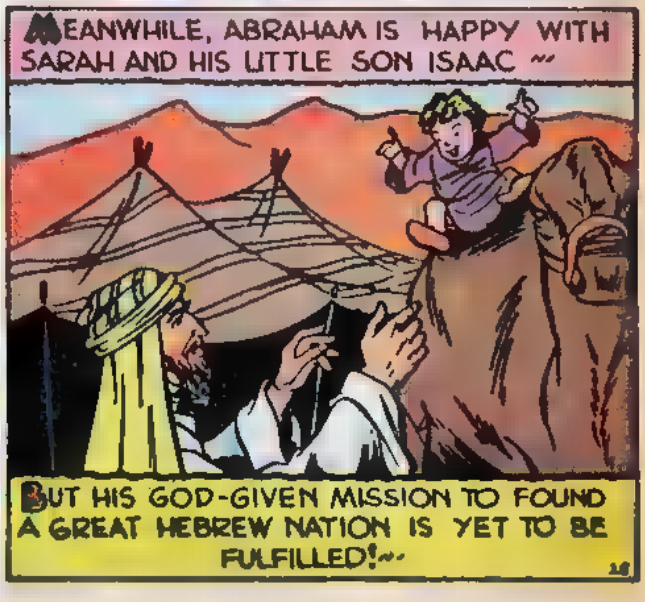

BUT SARAH HAS NO PEACE WITH HAGAR AND HER SON, ISHMAEL, IN THE HOUSE ~~
SILLY TO MAKE SUCH A FUSS OVER A BABY!
NOW HAGAR'S SON MOCKS AT ME!! I WON'T BEAR THIS ANY LONGER!

ABRAHAM, YOU MUST SEND HAGAR AWAY!
IF YOU WISH IT, SARAH!

I AM SORRY TO SEND YOU AWAY, BUT IT MUST BE! TAKE THIS BREAD AND WATER WITH YOU, AND GOD PROTECT YOU!
I'LL GO INTO THE WILDERNESS!


THEIR WATER GONE, HAGAR AND ISHMAEL WANDER THROUGH THE WILDERNESS, THIRSTY AND EXHAUSTED ~~
WATER! MOTHER! GIVE ME WATER!
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HIM SUFFER!

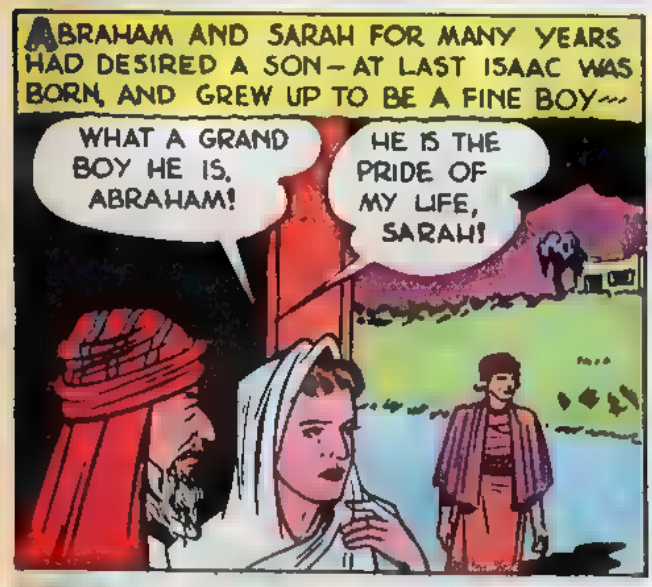

AN ANGEL OF GOD APPEARS AND SHOWS THEM WATER BEHIND A SHRUB ~~
WATER! NOW ISHMAEL WILL NOT DIE!
DON'T BE AFRAID HAGAR-GOD HEARD ISHMAEL'S CRIES, AND WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT MAN!

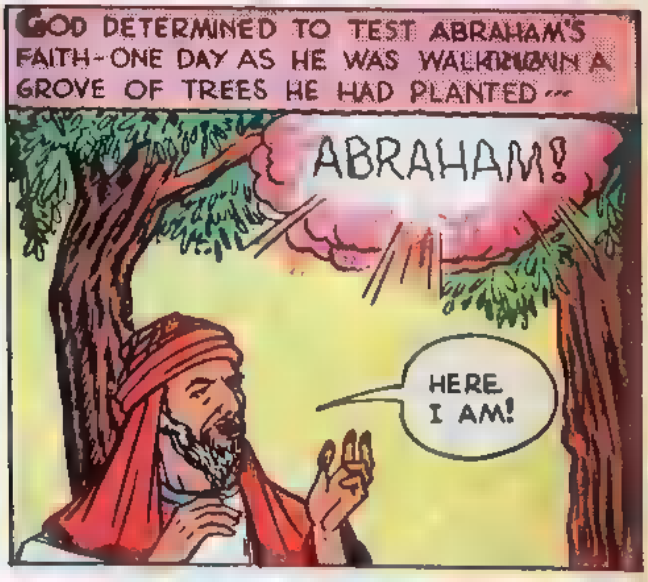

MEANWHILE, ABRAHAM IS HAPPY WITH SARAH AND HIS LITTLE SON ISAAC ~~
BUT HIS GOD-GIVEN MISSION TO FOUND A GREAT HEBREW NATION IS YET TO BE FULFILLED! ~~

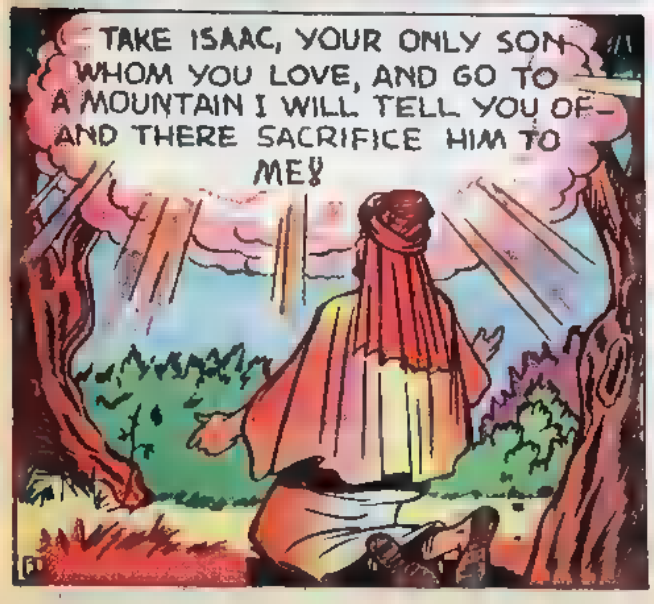
THE STORY OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

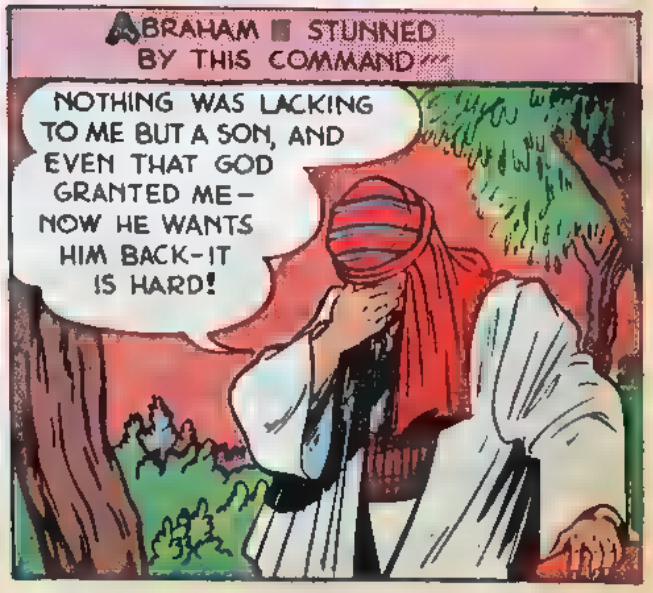
FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS, CHAR XXI THROUGH XXV
KING JAMES, DOUAY AND JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY
VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

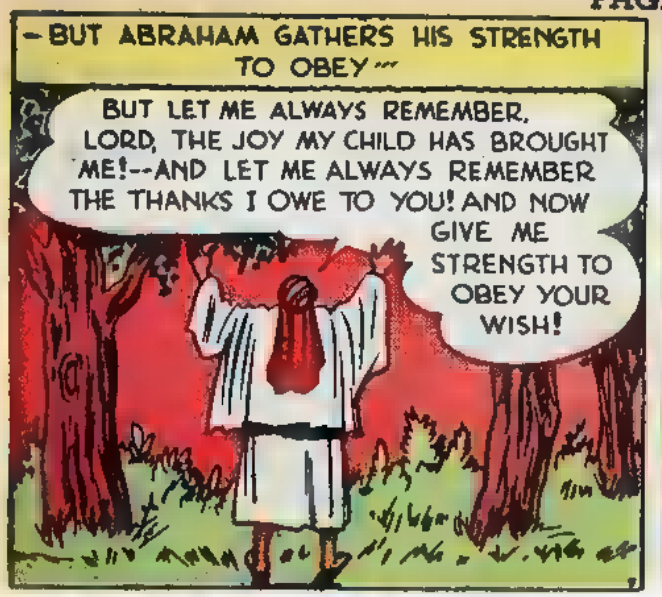
PART THREE

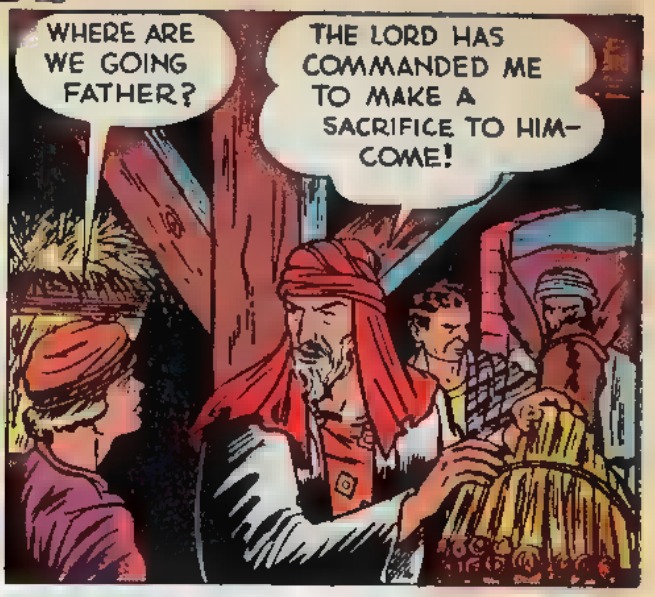









—BUT ABRAHAM GATHERS HIS STRENGTH TO OBEY—
BUT LET ME ALWAYS REMEMBER, LORD, THE JOY MY CHILD HAS BROUGHT ME!--AND LET ME ALWAYS REMEMBER THE THANKS I OWE TO YOU! AND NOW GIVE ME STRENGTH TO OBEY YOUR WISH!

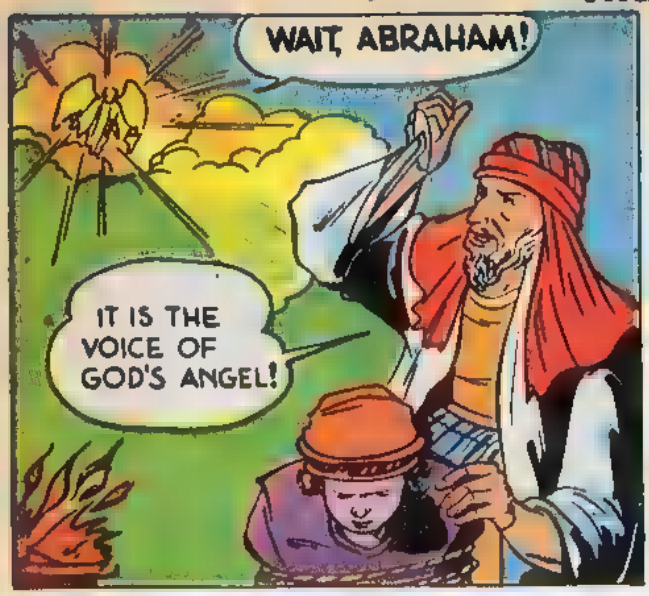

WHERE ARE WE GOING FATHER?
THE LORD HAS COMMANDED ME TO MAKE A SACRIFICE TO HIM—COME!

BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR THE SACRIFICE, FATHER?
THE LORD WILL PROVIDE, MY SON!

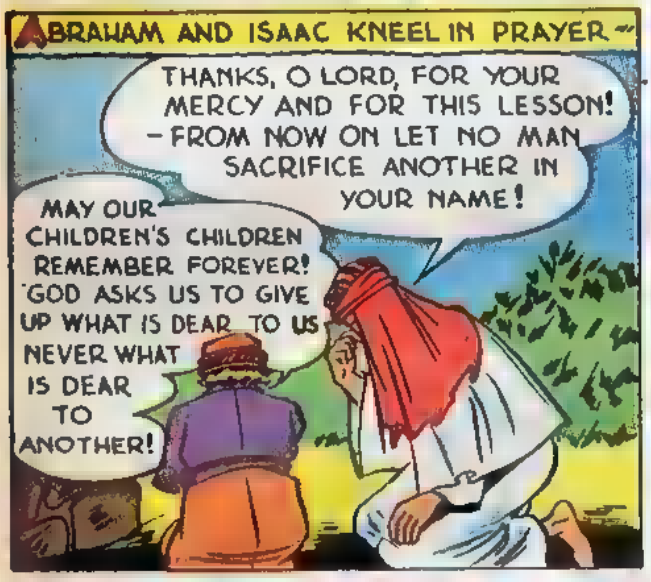
WAIT HERE FOR ME—MY SON AND I ARE GOING UP ON THE MOUNTAIN TO WORSHIP!

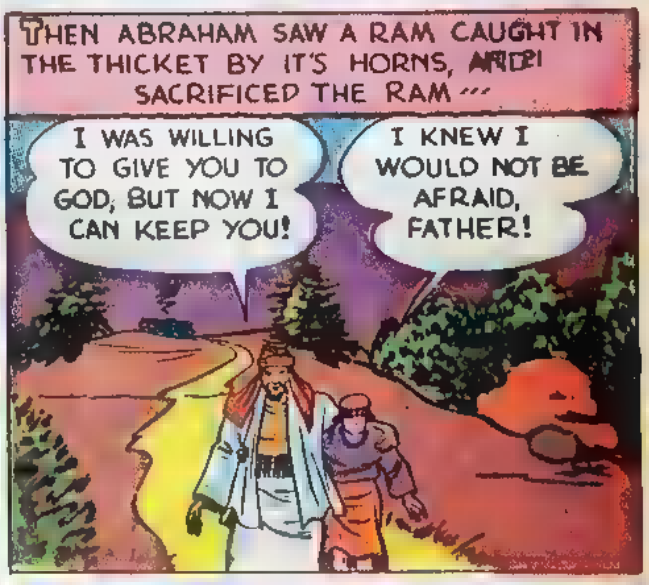
BUT, FATHER, HOW CAN YOU MAKE A SACRIFICE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A LAMB?
MY SON, YOU ARE THE LAMB!

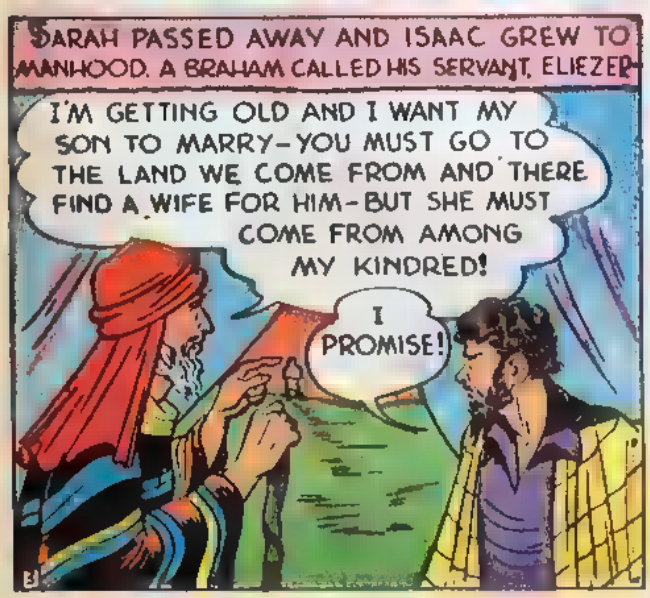
ISAAC WAS TERRIFIED AT FIRST, BUT....
GOD KNEW WHAT I HELD MOST DEAR, AND THIS HE CAME IN A VISION TO ASK ME FOR! —FORGIVE ME, SON!
IF GOD BIDS YOU THEN DO IT, FATHER-I SHALL NOT BE AFRAID, FOR GOD WISHES YOUR GOOD AND MINE!

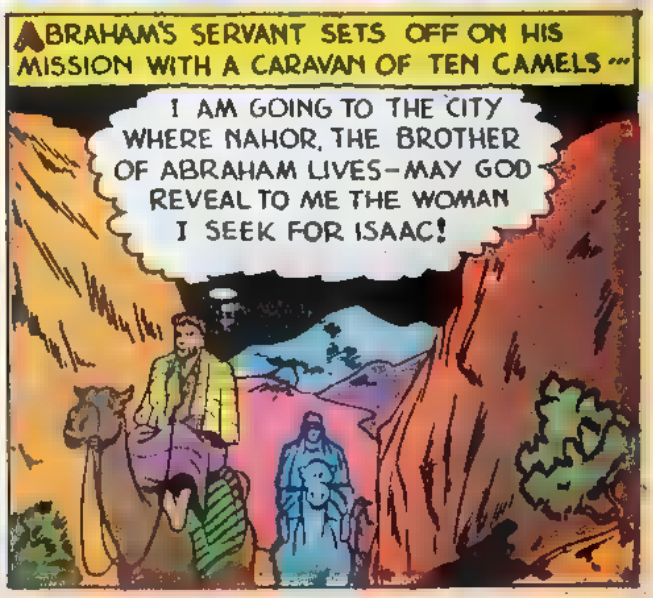

WAIT, ABRAHAM!
IT IS THE VOICE OF GOD'S ANGEL!

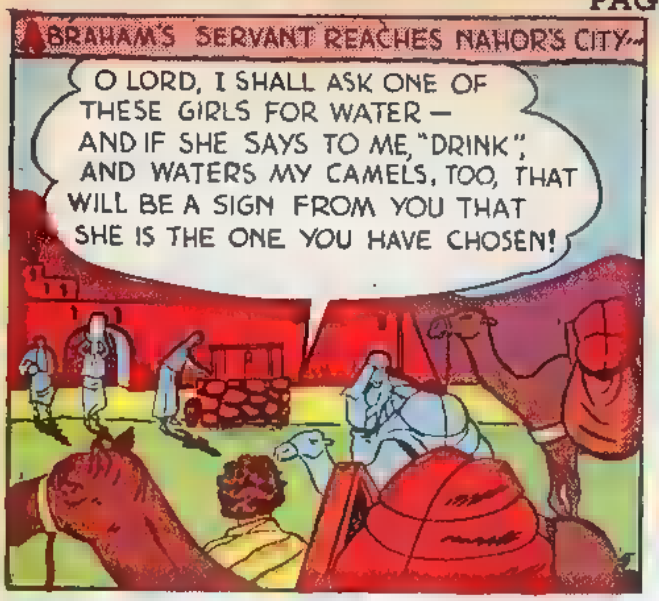
I WANTED TO TEST YOU, ABRAHAM. I DO NOT WANT YOU TO SACRIFICE YOUR SON – I WANTED ONLY TO FIND OUT IF YOU WOULD TRUST ME!

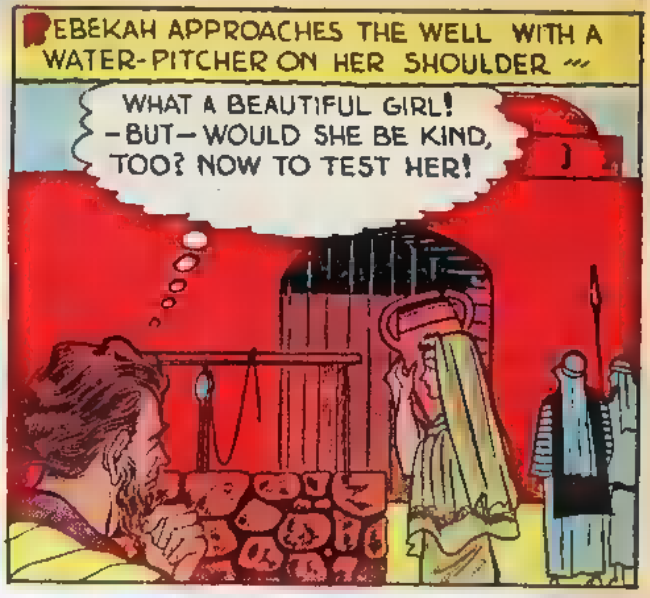

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC KNEEL IN PRAYER...
THANKS, O LORD, FOR YOUR MERCY AND FOR THIS LESSON! – FROM NOW ON LET NO MAN SACRIFICE ANOTHER IN YOUR NAME!
MAY OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN REMEMBER FOREVER! GOD ASKS US TO GIVE UP WHAT IS DEAR TO US NEVER WHAT IS DEAR TO ANOTHER!

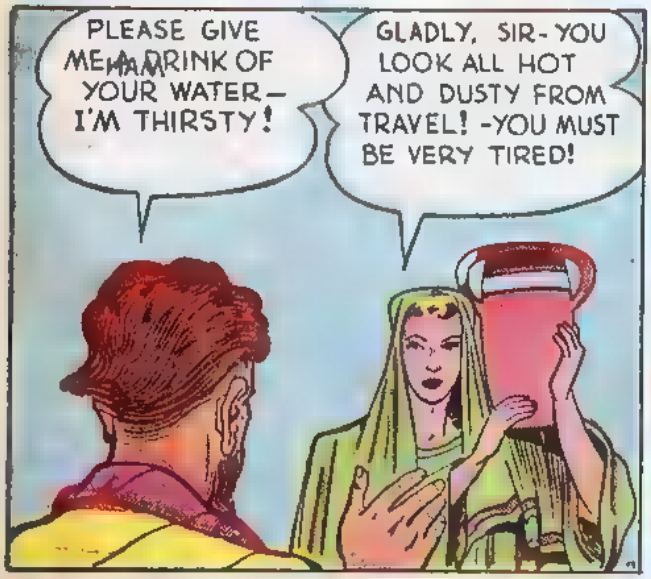

THEN ABRAHAM SAW A RAM CAUGHT IN THE THICKET BY IT'S HORNS, AND SACRIFICED THE RAM...
I WAS WILLING TO GIVE YOU TO GOD; BUT NOW I CAN KEEP YOU!
I KNEW I WOULD NOT BE AFRAID, FATHER!

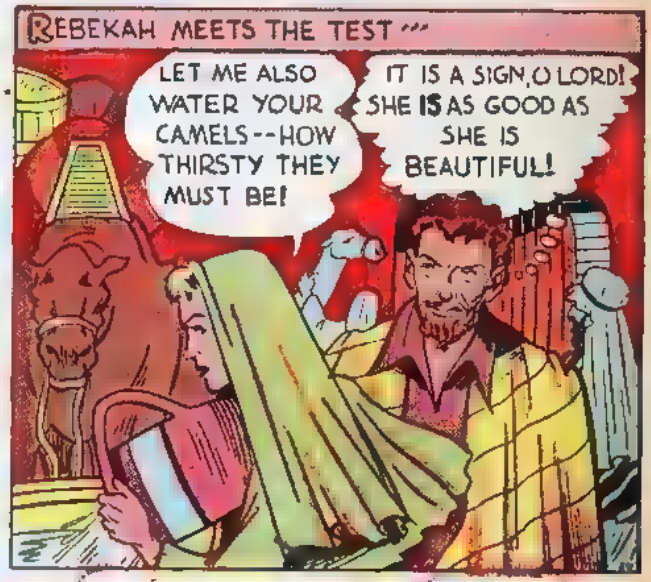

SARAH PASSED AWAY AND ISAAC GREW TO MANHOOD. ABRAHAM CALLED HIS SERVANT, ELIEZER
I'M GETTING OLD AND I WANT MY SON TO MARRY – YOU MUST GO TO THE LAND WE COME FROM AND THERE FIND A WIFE FOR HIM – BUT SHE MUST COME FROM AMONG MY KINDRED!
I PROMISE!

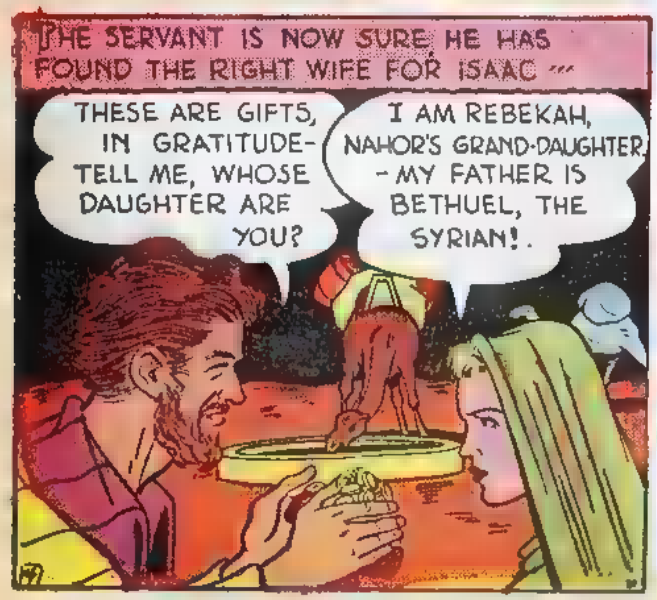

ABRAHAM'S SERVANT SETS OFF ON HIS MISSION WITH A CARAVAN OF TEN CAMELS...
I AM GOING TO THE CITY WHERE NAHOR, THE BROTHER OF ABRAHAM LIVES – MAY GOD REVEAL TO ME THE WOMAN I SEEK FOR ISAAC!


ABRAHAM'S SERVANT REACHES NAHOR'S CITY--
O LORD, I SHALL ASK ONE OF THESE GIRLS FOR WATER — AND IF SHE SAYS TO ME, "DRINK", AND WATERS MY CAMELS, TOO, THAT WILL BE A SIGN FROM YOU THAT SHE IS THE ONE YOU HAVE CHOSEN!

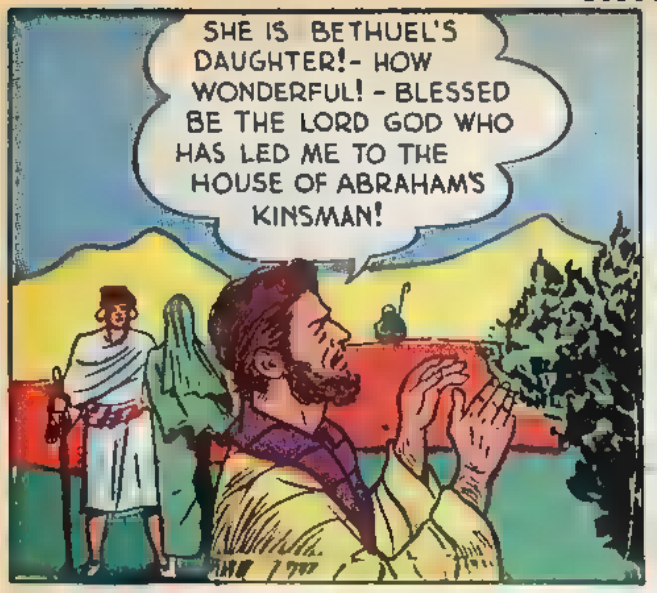

REBEKAH APPROACHES THE WELL WITH A WATER-PITCHER ON HER SHOULDER ~~
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL! -BUT- WOULD SHE BE KIND, TOO? NOW TO TEST HER!

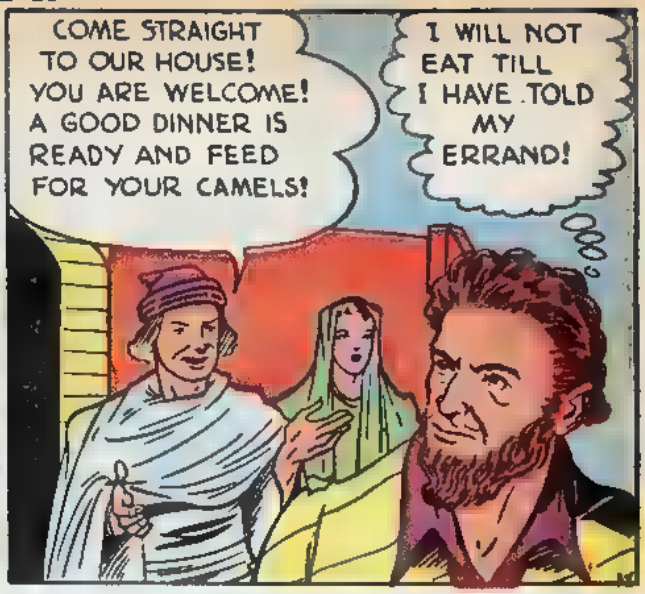

PLEASE GIVE ME A DRINK OF YOUR WATER — I'M THIRSTY!
GLADLY, SIR - YOU LOOK ALL HOT AND DUSTY FROM TRAVEL! -YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED!

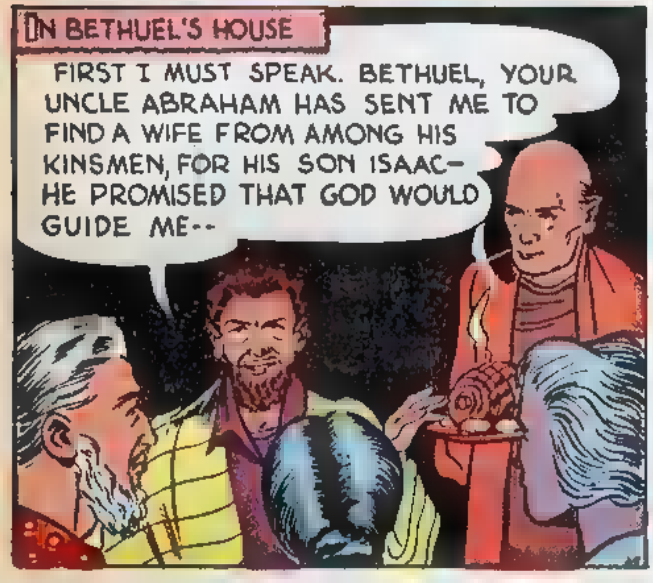

REBEKAH MEETS THE TEST ~~~
LET ME ALSO WATER YOUR CAMELS--HOW THIRSTY THEY MUST BE!
IT IS A SIGN, O LORD! SHE IS AS GOOD AS SHE IS BEAUTIFUL!


THE SERVANT IS NOW SURE HE HAS FOUND THE RIGHT WIFE FOR ISAAC ~~~
THESE ARE GIFTS, IN GRATITUDE- TELL ME, WHOSE DAUGHTER ARE YOU?
I AM REBEKAH, NAHOR'S GRAND-DAUGHTER. - MY FATHER IS BETHUEL, THE SYRIAN!

IS THERE ROOM IN YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE FOR US TO LODGE TONIGHT?
THERE IS MY BROTHER LABAN-- I'LL ASK HIM!

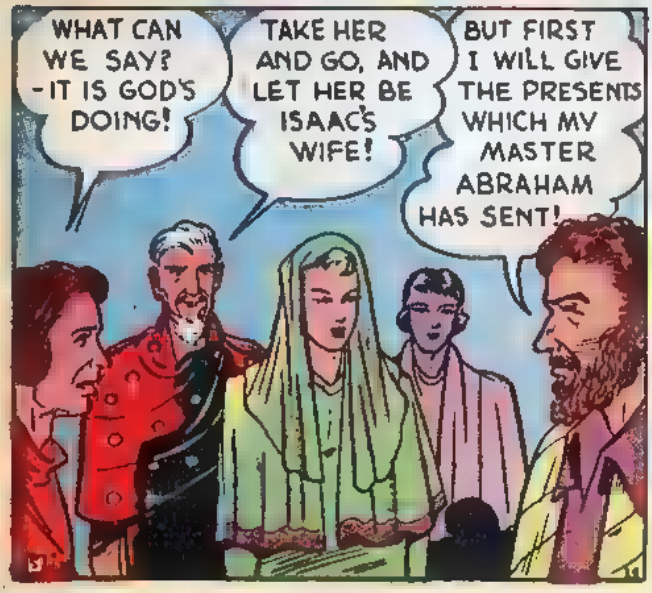

SHE IS BETHUEL'S DAUGHTER! - HOW WONDERFUL! - BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD WHO HAS LED ME TO THE HOUSE OF ABRAHAM'S KINSMAN!

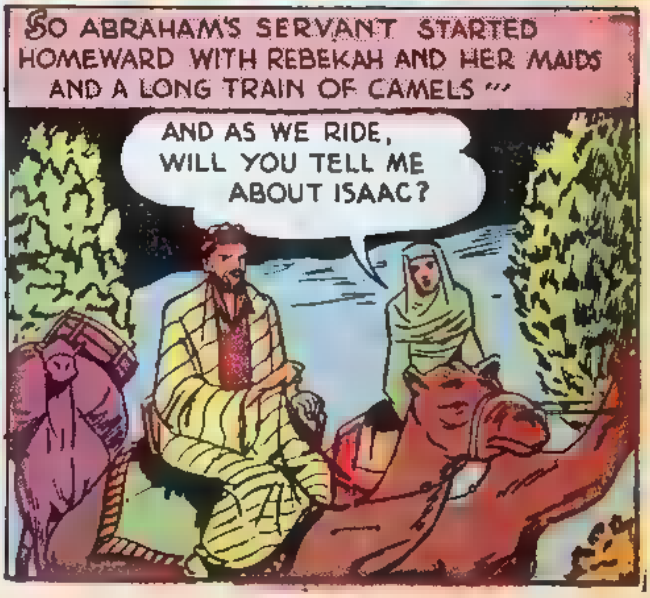

COME STRAIGHT TO OUR HOUSE! YOU ARE WELCOME! A GOOD DINNER IS READY AND FEED FOR YOUR CAMELS!
I WILL NOT EAT TILL I HAVE TOLD MY ERRAND!

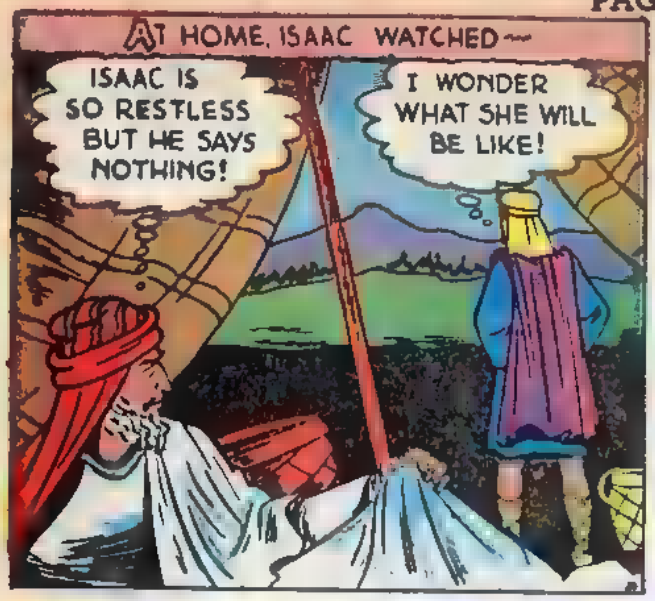

IN BETHUEL'S HOUSE
FIRST I MUST SPEAK. BETHUEL, YOUR UNCLE ABRAHAM HAS SENT ME TO FIND A WIFE FROM AMONG HIS KINSMEN, FOR HIS SON ISAAC- HE PROMISED THAT GOD WOULD GUIDE ME--

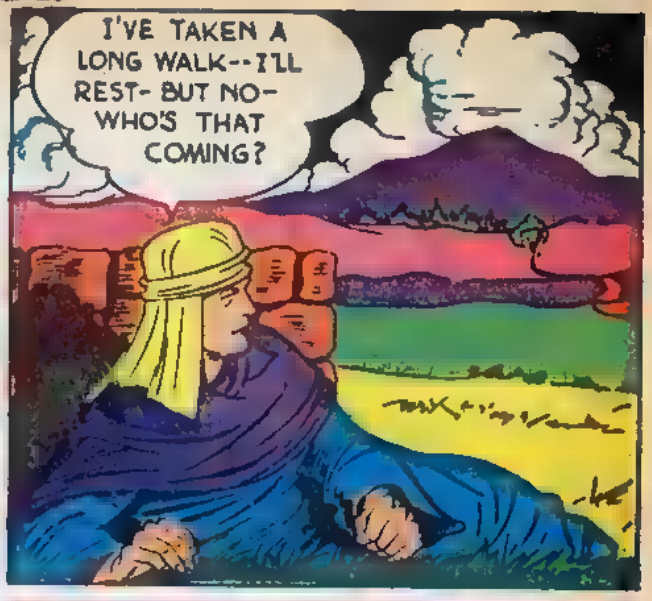
-AND WHEN I CAME TO THE WELL I ASKED GOD FOR A SIGN- WHEN REBEKAH GAVE WATER TO ME AND MY CAMELS I KNEW SHE WAS GOD'S CHOICE- WILL YOU LET HER WED HIM?

WILL YOU GO WITH THIS MAN AND MARRY ISAAC?
I WILL GO!

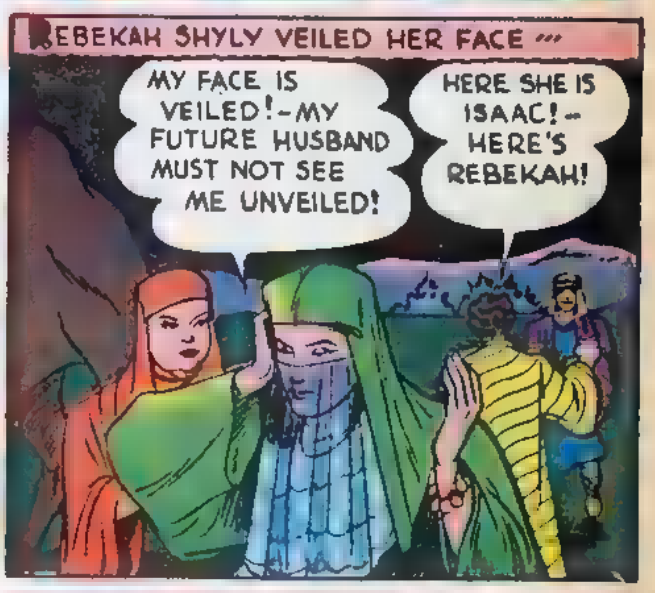

WHAT CAN WE SAY? -IT IS GOD'S DOING!
TAKE HER AND GO, AND LET HER BE ISAAC'S WIFE!
BUT FIRST I WILL GIVE THE PRESENTS WHICH MY MASTER ABRAHAM HAS SENT!


SO ABRAHAM'S SERVANT STARTED HOMEWARD WITH REBEKAH AND HER MAIDS AND A LONG TRAIN OF CAMELS ...
AND AS WE RIDE, WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT ISAAC?


AT HOME, ISAAC WATCHED ---
ISAAC IS SO RESTLESS BUT HE SAYS NOTHING!
I WONDER WHAT SHE WILL BE LIKE!

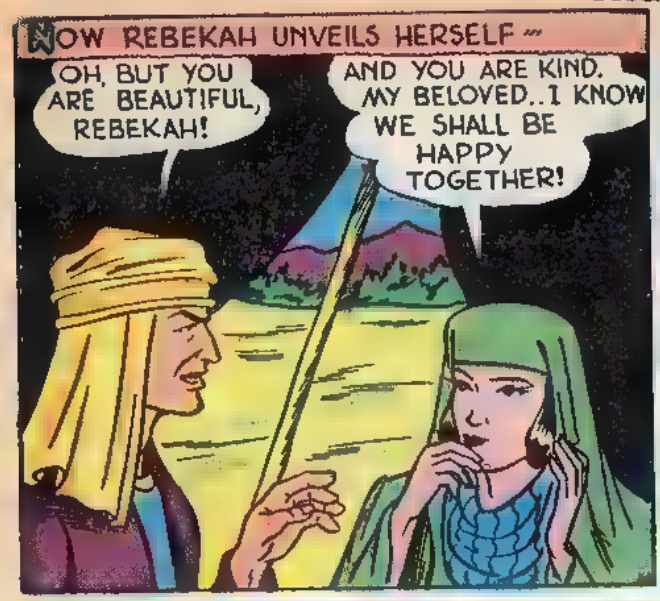

I'VE TAKEN A LONG WALK--I'LL REST- BUT NO- WHO'S THAT COMING?

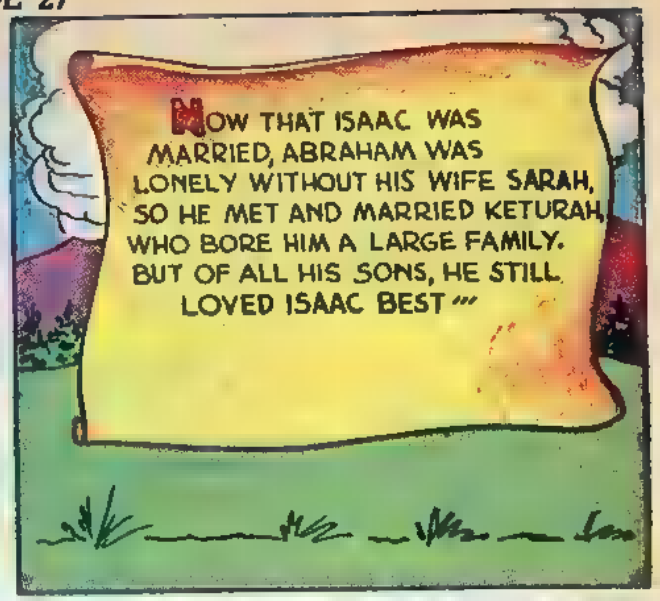
REBEKAH WAS THE FIRST TO SPY ISAAC
WHAT MAN IS THIS THAT WALKS IN THE FIELD TO MEET US?
IT IS MY MASTER'S SON, ISAAC!

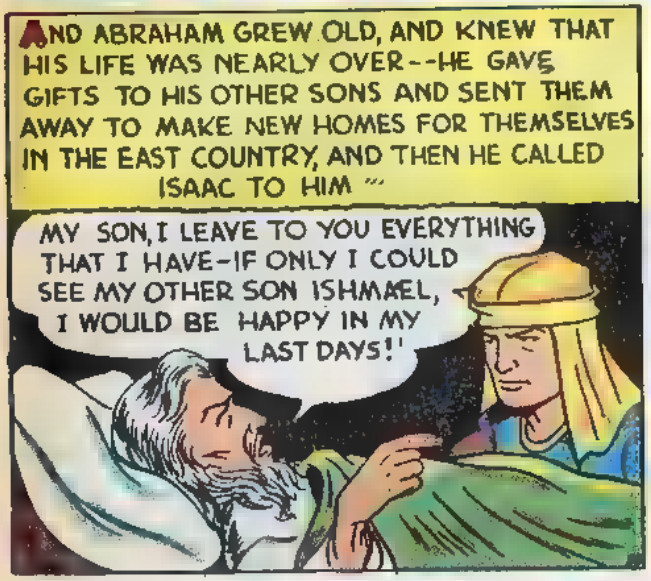

REBEKAH SHYLY VEILED HER FACE ---
MY FACE IS VEILED!-MY FUTURE HUSBAND MUST NOT SEE ME UNVEILED!
HERE SHE IS ISAAC!- HERE'S REBEKAH!

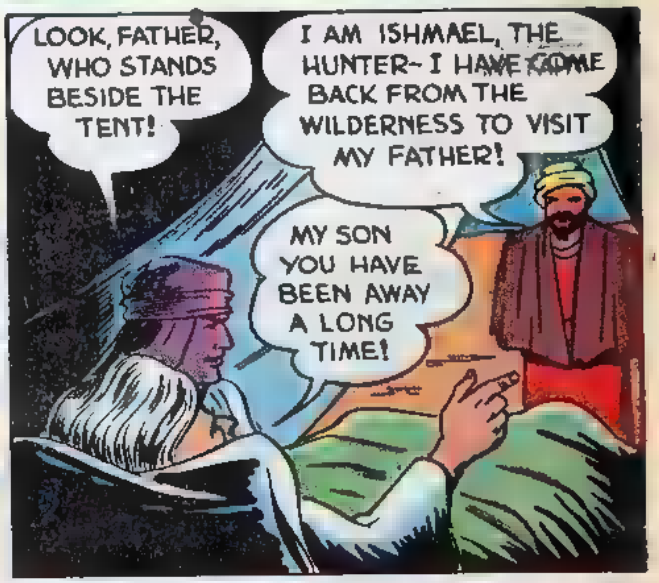
I HOPE YOU AND ABRAHAM WILL BE PLEASED WITH ME, ISAAC!
SOON WE SHALL BE AT MY FATHER'S HOUSE-
SO CHARMING! -I LOVE HER ALREADY!

ABRAHAM MEETS REBEKAH ---
WELCOME, MY DAUGHTER! NOW ISAAC WILL NOT BE LONELY ANY MORE!
THIS TENT WAS MY MOTHER SARAH'S --NOW IT SHALL BE YOURS!

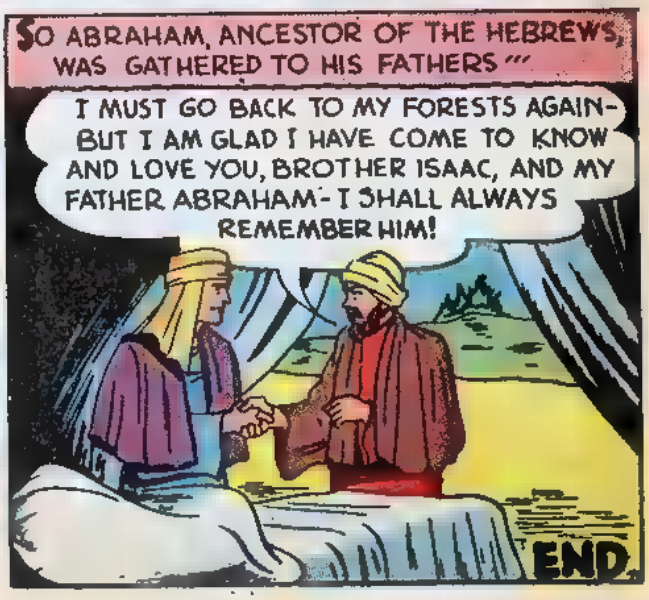

NOW REBEKAH UNVEILS HERSELF ...
OH, BUT YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, REBEKAH!
AND YOU ARE KIND. MY BELOVED..I KNOW WE SHALL BE HAPPY TOGETHER!


NOW THAT ISAAC WAS MARRIED, ABRAHAM WAS LONELY WITHOUT HIS WIFE SARAH, SO HE MET AND MARRIED KETURAH, WHO BORE HIM A LARGE FAMILY. BUT OF ALL HIS SONS, HE STILL LOVED ISAAC BEST ...


AND ABRAHAM GREW OLD, AND KNEW THAT HIS LIFE WAS NEARLY OVER--HE GAVE GIFTS TO HIS OTHER SONS AND SENT THEM AWAY TO MAKE NEW HOMES FOR THEMSELVES IN THE EAST COUNTRY, AND THEN HE CALLED ISAAC TO HIM ...
MY SON, I LEAVE TO YOU EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE-IF ONLY I COULD SEE MY OTHER SON ISHMAEL, I WOULD BE HAPPY IN MY LAST DAYS!


LOOK, FATHER, WHO STANDS BESIDE THE TENT!
I AM ISHMAEL, THE HUNTER- I HAVE COME BACK FROM THE WILDERNESS TO VISIT MY FATHER!
MY SON YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY A LONG TIME!

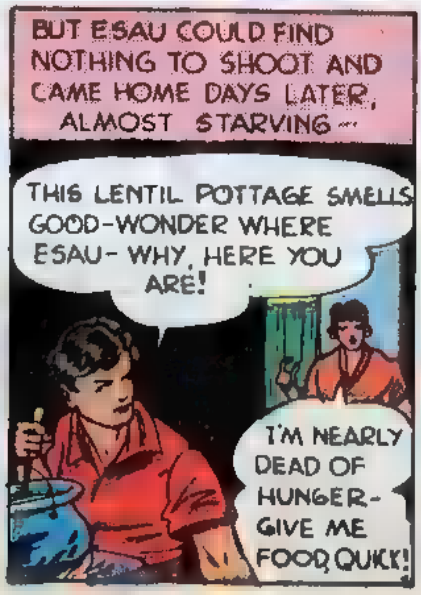
NOW I HAVE SEEN YOU AGAIN ISHMAEL, I CAN DIE CONTENT!
AND I LIVE CONTENT, FATHER, HAVING SEEN YOU!


SO ABRAHAM, ANCESTOR OF THE HEBREWS, WAS GATHERED TO HIS FATHERS ...
I MUST GO BACK TO MY FORESTS AGAIN- BUT I AM GLAD I HAVE COME TO KNOW AND LOVE YOU, BROTHER ISAAC, AND MY FATHER ABRAHAM- I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM!
END

The Story of JACOB AND ESAU

THE TWINS

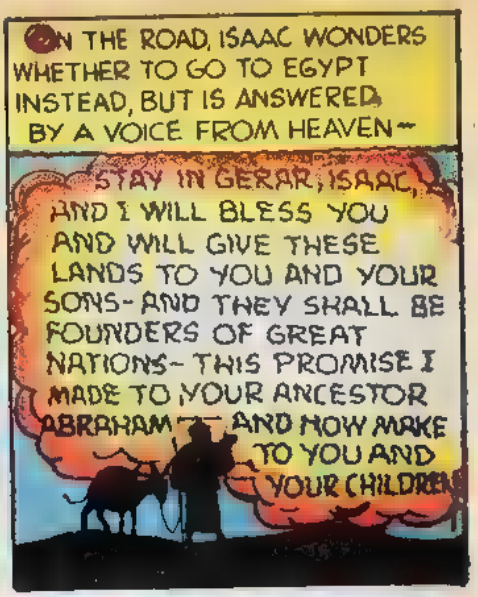
FROM GENESIS XXV-XXXIII IN ALL THREE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE ---

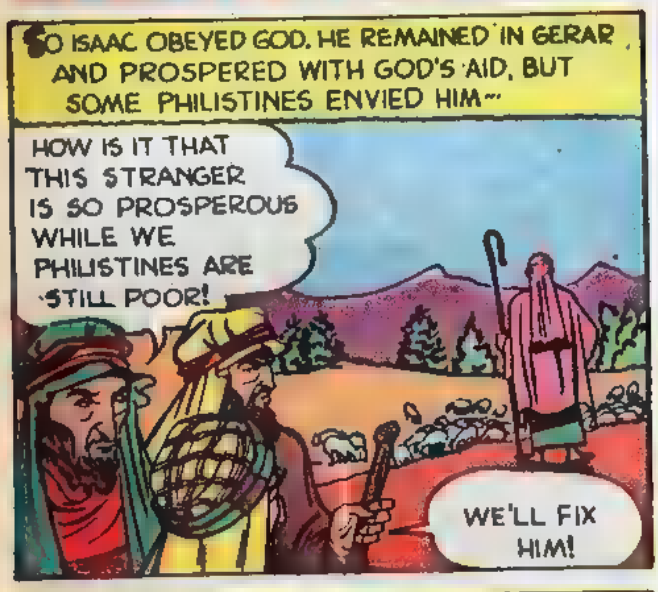


NOW IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE OLDEST SON IN THE FAMILY HAD A "BIRTHRIGHT" TO INHERIT ALL HIS FATHER'S PROPERTY AND BECOME HEAD OF THE FAMILY - ESAU OWNS THAT "BIRTHRIGHT" BUT NOW JACOB THINKS HE CAN GET IT AWAY FROM HIM --

IF YOU WANT FOOD SO MUCH, GIVE ME YOUR BIRTHRIGHT!
TAKE IT!-WHAT GOOD IS IT TO ME IF I STARVE TO DEATH?

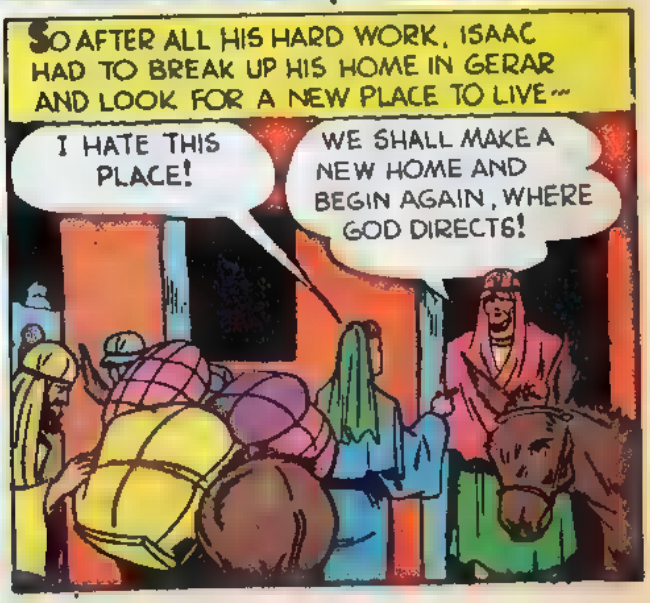
MEANWHILE, FAMINE CAME ON THE LAND--ISAAC, SEEKING FOOD, SET OUT TO VISIT ABIMELECH, KING OF THE PHILISTINES, IN GERAR
GOOD-BYE, DEAR HUSBAND!
KING ABIMELECH IS A PHILISTINE-DON'T TRUST HIM, FATHER!
GOOD-BYE, FATHER!


ON THE ROAD, ISAAC WONDERS WHETHER TO GO TO EGYPT INSTEAD, BUT IS ANSWERED BY A VOICE FROM HEAVEN--
STAY IN GERAR, ISAAC, AND I WILL BLESS YOU AND WILL GIVE THESE LANDS TO YOU AND YOUR SONS-AND THEY SHALL BE FOUNDERS OF GREAT NATIONS-THIS PROMISE I MADE TO YOUR ANCESTOR ABRAHAM--AND NOW MAKE TO YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN

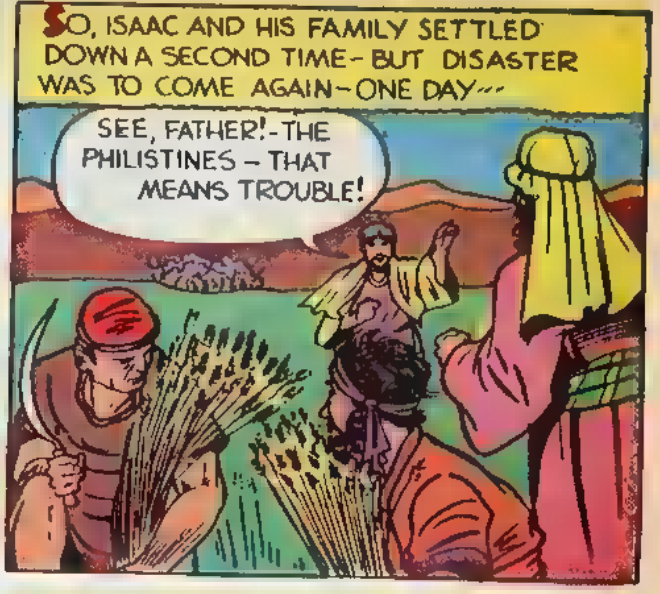

SO ISAAC OBEYED GOD. HE REMAINED IN GERAR, AND PROSPERED WITH GOD'S AID, BUT SOME PHILISTINES ENVIED HIM--
HOW IS IT THAT THIS STRANGER IS SO PROSPEROUS WHILE WE PHILISTINES ARE STILL POOR!
WE'LL FIX HIM!

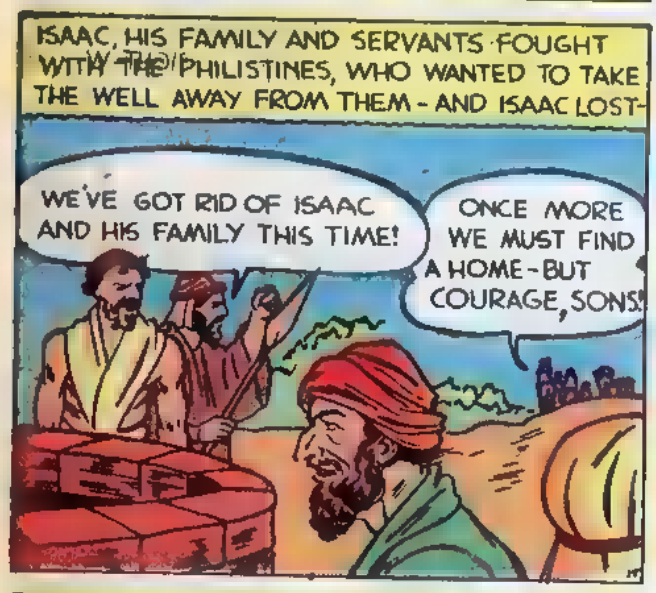
OUT OF SPITE, THE PHILISTINES FILLED THE WELLS WHERE ISAACS FLOCKS AND HERDS DRANK, WITH DIRT--
THEY HAVE FILLED THE WELL!
WHO DID THIS? THE FLOCKS WILL DIE OF THIRST!
MUST BE THE PHILISTINES-THEY HATE FATHER!

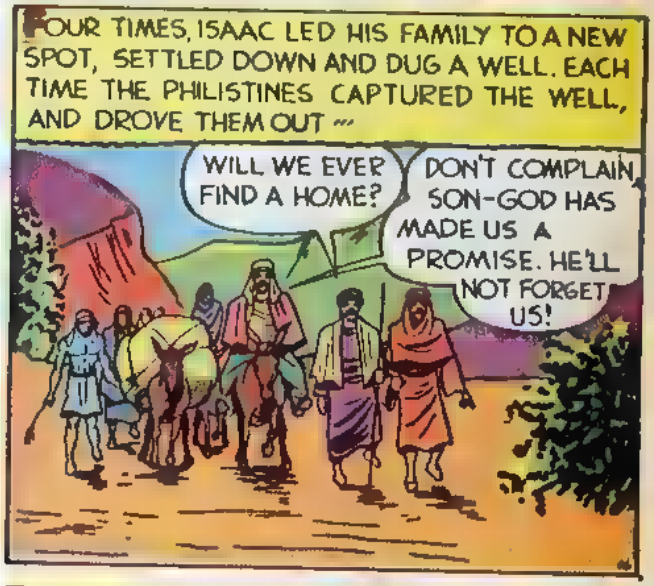
ABIMELECH, KING OF THE PHILISTINES, HEARS THE NEWS AND SENDS FOR ISAAC--
I WARN YOU, ISAAC. TAKE YOUR FAMILY AND LEAVE-MY PEOPLE HATE YOU-YOU ARE NOT SAFE HERE!
I'VE DONE NOTHING! -BUT I'LL TAKE MY FAMILY OUT OF DANGER!

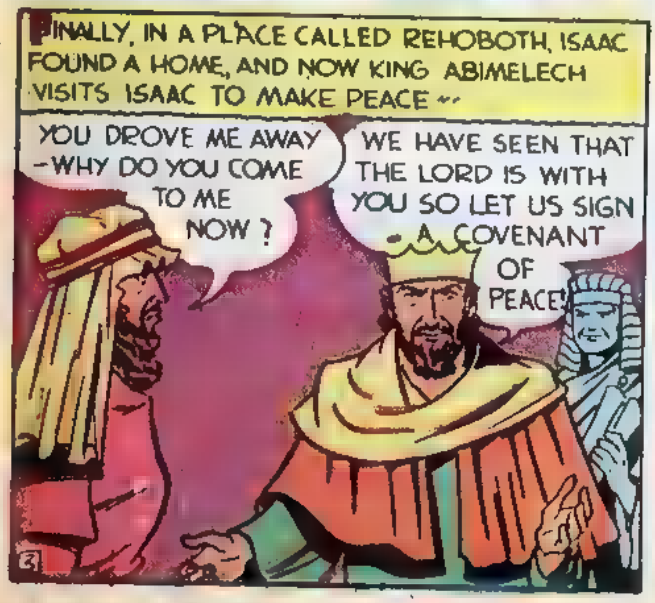

SO AFTER ALL HIS HARD WORK, ISAAC HAD TO BREAK UP HIS HOME IN GERAR AND LOOK FOR A NEW PLACE TO LIVE--
I HATE THIS PLACE!
WE SHALL MAKE A NEW HOME AND BEGIN AGAIN, WHERE GOD DIRECTS!

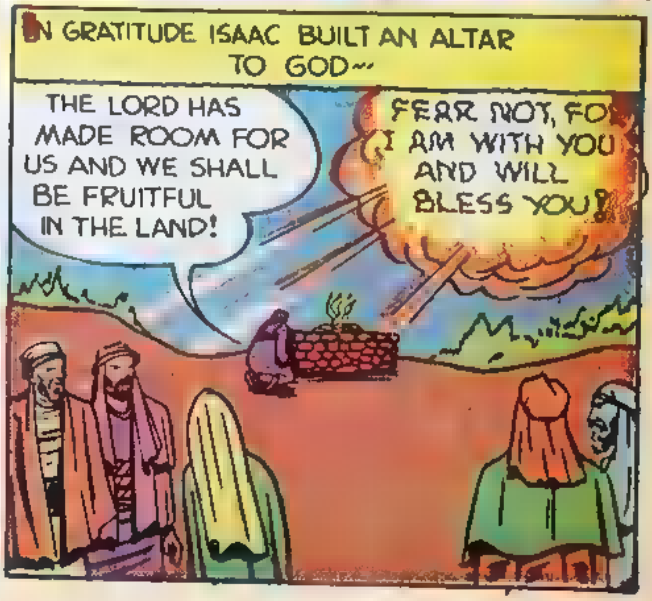
LATER
WE SHALL DIG A WELL, AND MAKE A NEW HOME HERE!
THIS WOULD BE A GOOD LAND FOR FARMING
AND THERE MUST BE DEER IN THOSE WOODS!


SO, ISAAC AND HIS FAMILY SETTLED DOWN A SECOND TIME - BUT DISASTER WAS TO COME AGAIN - ONE DAY...
SEE, FATHER! - THE PHILISTINES - THAT MEANS TROUBLE!

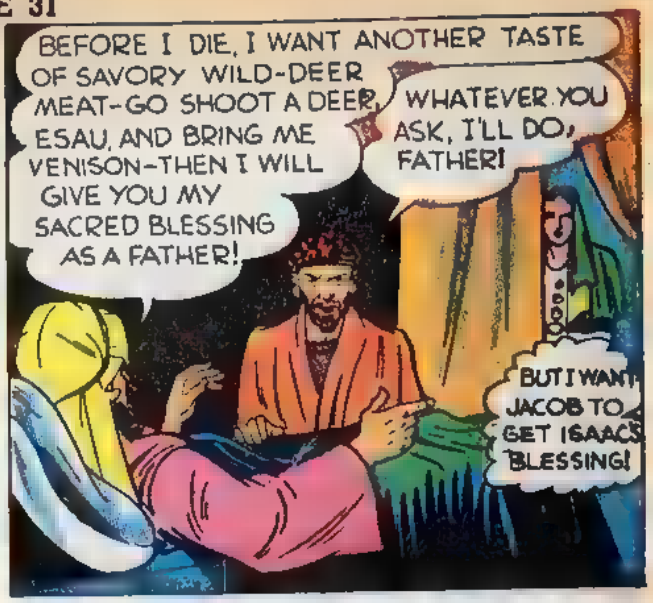

ISAAC, HIS FAMILY AND SERVANTS FOUGHT WITH THE PHILISTINES, WHO WANTED TO TAKE THE WELL AWAY FROM THEM - AND ISAAC LOST-
WE'VE GOT RID OF ISAAC AND HIS FAMILY THIS TIME!
ONCE MORE WE MUST FIND A HOME - BUT COURAGE, SONS!

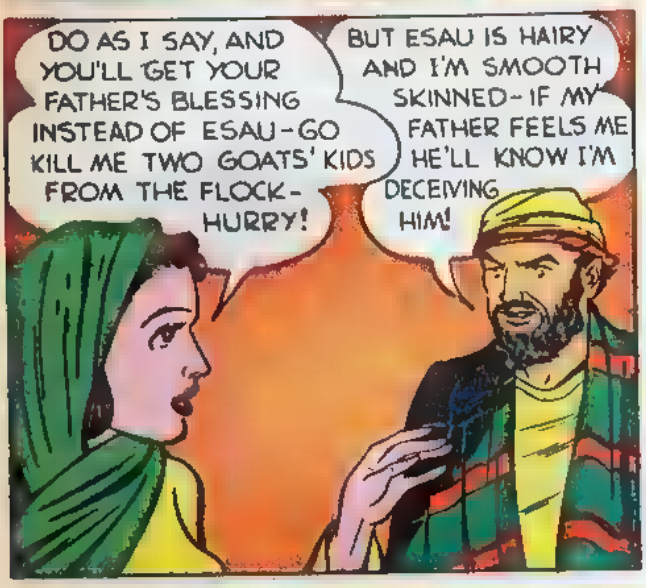

FOUR TIMES, ISAAC LED HIS FAMILY TO A NEW SPOT, SETTLED DOWN AND DUG A WELL. EACH TIME THE PHILISTINES CAPTURED THE WELL, AND DROVE THEM OUT...
WILL WE EVER FIND A HOME?
DON'T COMPLAIN, SON - GOD HAS MADE US A PROMISE. HE'LL NOT FORGET US!


FINALLY, IN A PLACE CALLED REHOBOTH, ISAAC FOUND A HOME, AND NOW KING ABIMELECH VISITS ISAAC TO MAKE PEACE...
YOU DROVE ME AWAY - WHY DO YOU COME TO ME NOW?
WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE LORD IS WITH YOU SO LET US SIGN A COVENANT OF PEACE!


IN GRATITUDE ISAAC BUILT AN ALTAR TO GOD...
THE LORD HAS MADE ROOM FOR US AND WE SHALL BE FRUITFUL IN THE LAND!
FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU AND WILL BLESS YOU!

YEARS PASSED AND ISAAC GREW OLD AND HALF-BLIND ~
COME CLOSER, I CAN'T SEE YOU- IS THIS MY SON ESAU?
YES, FATHER, IT'S ESAU!

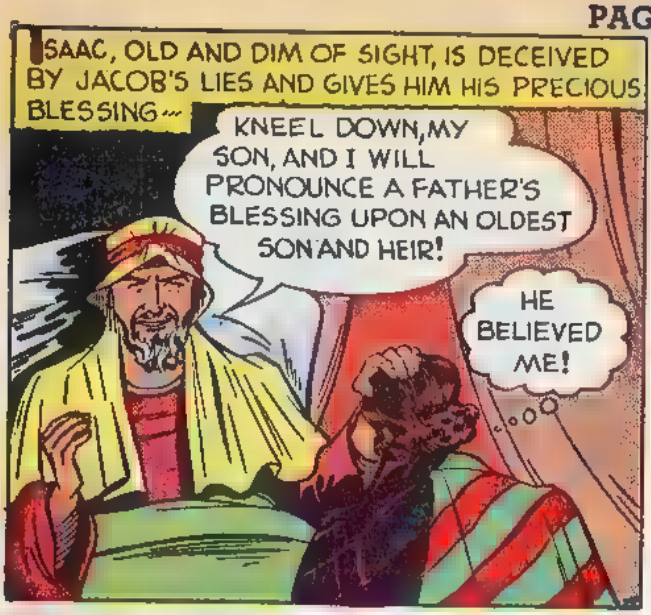

BEFORE I DIE, I WANT ANOTHER TASTE OF SAVORY WILD-DEER MEAT-GO SHOOT A DEER, ESAU, AND BRING ME VENISON-THEN I WILL GIVE YOU MY SACRED BLESSING AS A FATHER!
WHATEVER YOU ASK, I'LL DO, FATHER!
BUT I WANT JACOB TO GET ISAAC'S BLESSING!

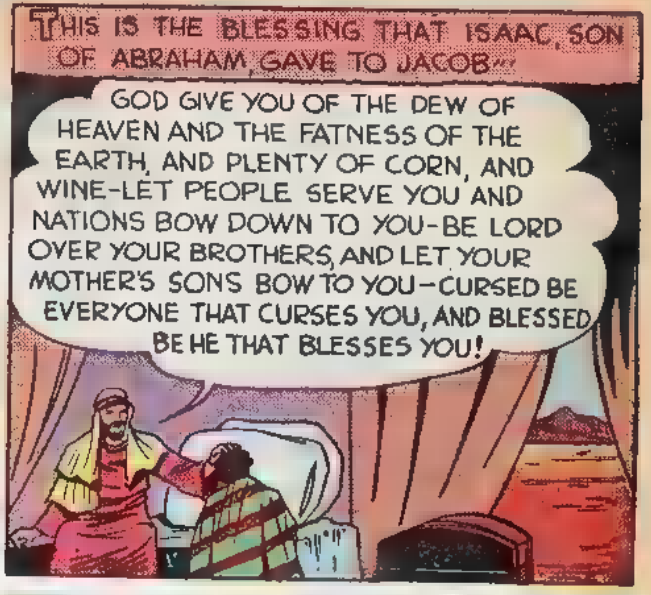

DO AS I SAY, AND YOU'LL GET YOUR FATHER'S BLESSING INSTEAD OF ESAU-GO KILL ME TWO GOATS' KIDS FROM THE FLOCK-HURRY!
BUT ESAU IS HAIRY AND I'M SMOOTH SKINNED-IF MY FATHER FEELS ME HE'LL KNOW I'M DECEIVING HIM!

NEVER MIND! -I'LL DRESS YOU IN ESAU'S CLOTHES AND PUT THE SKINS OF THE GOATS ON YOUR HANDS -HE'LL THINK YOU'RE ESAU!
I HAVE ESAU'S BIRTHRIGHT-WHY SHOULDN'T I GET MY FATHER'S BLESSING, TOO?

WHEN THE SAVORY KID-MEAT WAS READY JACOB CARRIED IT TO HIS FATHER ISAAC-WEARING HAIRY STRIPS OF GOAT SKINS ON HIS HANDS, ARMS AND NECK~
HERE'S VENISON, FATHER-EAT, THEN BLESS ME!
IS THIS REALLY MY SON ESAU? LET ME FEEL YOU, TO MAKE SURE!

YOUR HANDS ARE THE HAIRY HANDS OF ESAU, BUT YOUR VOICE IS THE VOICE OF JACOB-ARE YOU REALLY ESAU?
I AM, FATHER, NOW GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING!

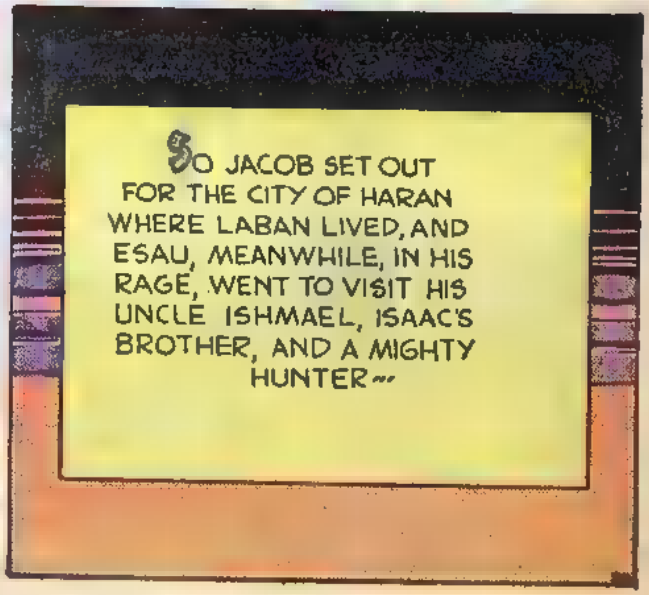

ISAAC, OLD AND DIM OF SIGHT, IS DECEIVED BY JACOB'S LIES AND GIVES HIM HIS PRECIOUS BLESSING...
KNEEL DOWN, MY SON, AND I WILL PRONOUNCE A FATHER'S BLESSING UPON AN OLDEST SON AND HEIR!
HE BELIEVED ME!

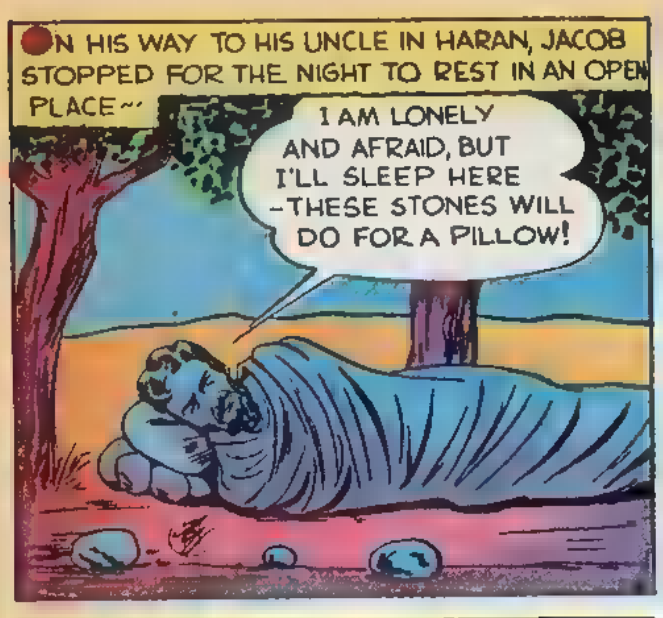

THIS IS THE BLESSING THAT ISAAC, SON OF ABRAHAM, GAVE TO JACOB...
GOD GIVE YOU OF THE DEW OF HEAVEN AND THE FATNESS OF THE EARTH, AND PLENTY OF CORN, AND WINE-LET PEOPLE SERVE YOU AND NATIONS BOW DOWN TO YOU-BE LORD OVER YOUR BROTHERS, AND LET YOUR MOTHER'S SONS BOW TO YOU-CURSED BE EVERYONE THAT CURSES YOU, AND BLESSED BE HE THAT BLESSES YOU!

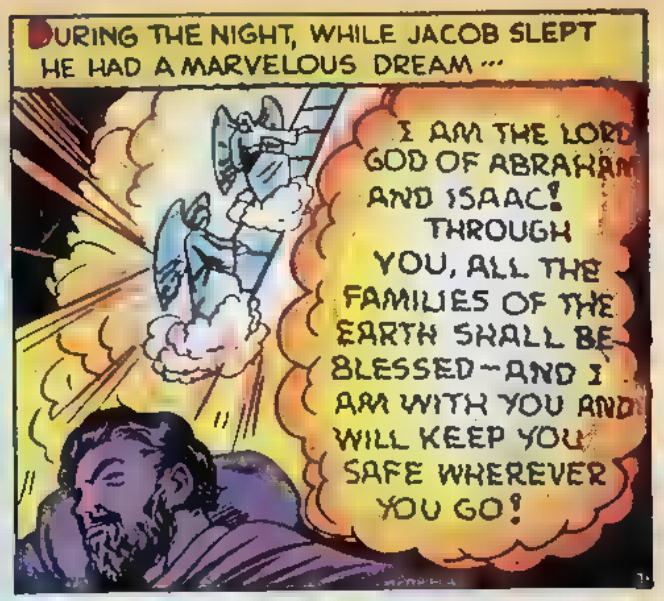
NO SOONER HAD JACOB LEFT HIS FATHER, THAN ESAU CAME IN WITH A DISH OF REAL VENISON...
YOU SHALL TASTE YOUR ROAST VENISON NOW!
IS THIS YOU, ESAU? -THEN JACOB HAS TRICKED ME!

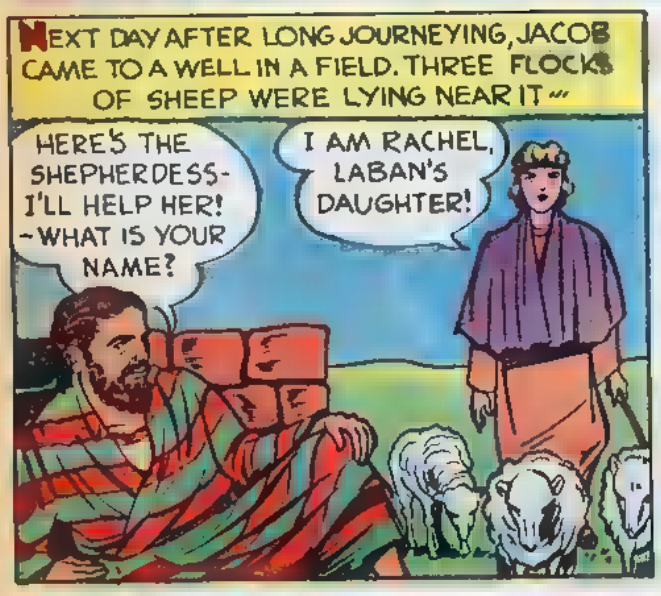
BUT FATHER, CAN'T YOU GIVE ME A BLESSING TOO?-HAVE YOU ONLY ONE?
BUT I MADE YOUR BROTHER MASTER OVER YOU, AND I CANNOT CHANGE THAT!

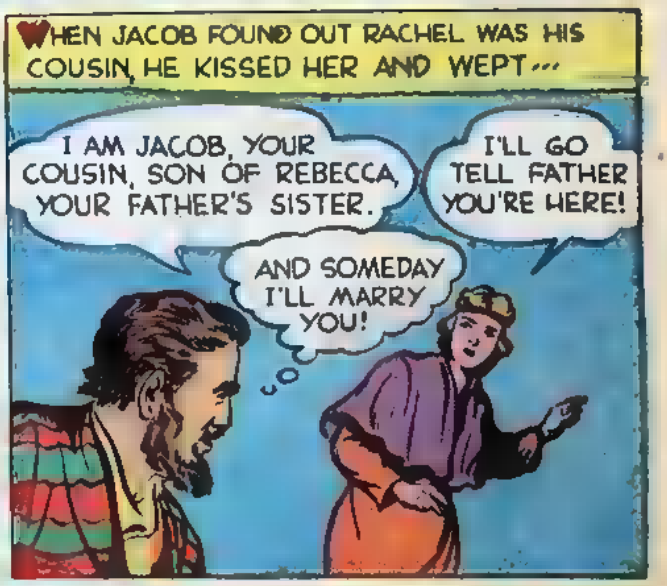
REBEKAH FEARED ESAU WOULD KILL JACOB IN HIS ANGER, AND URGED HER FAVORITE TO HIDE HIMSELF...
YES, GO TO MY BROTHER LABAN UNTIL ESAU'S FURY HAS DIED DOWN!
SEND FOR ME WHEN IT'S SAFE TO COME BACK!

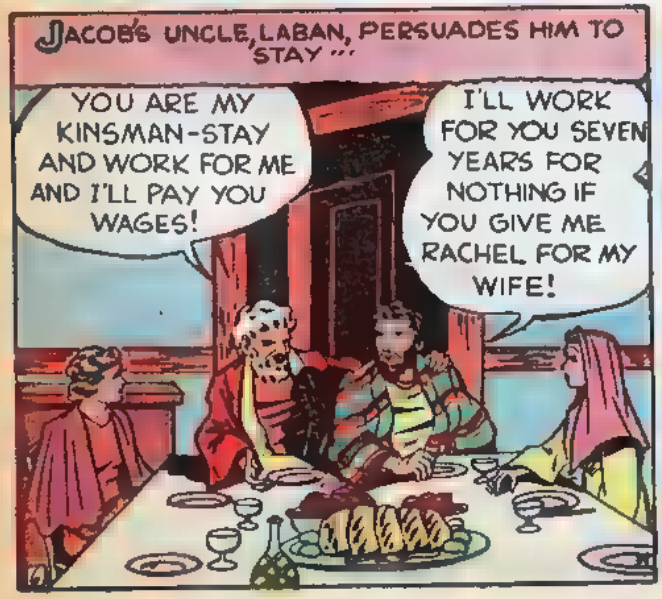

SO JACOB SET OUT FOR THE CITY OF HARAN WHERE LABAN LIVED, AND ESAU, MEANWHILE, IN HIS RAGE, WENT TO VISIT HIS UNCLE ISHMAEL, ISAAC'S BROTHER, AND A MIGHTY HUNTER...

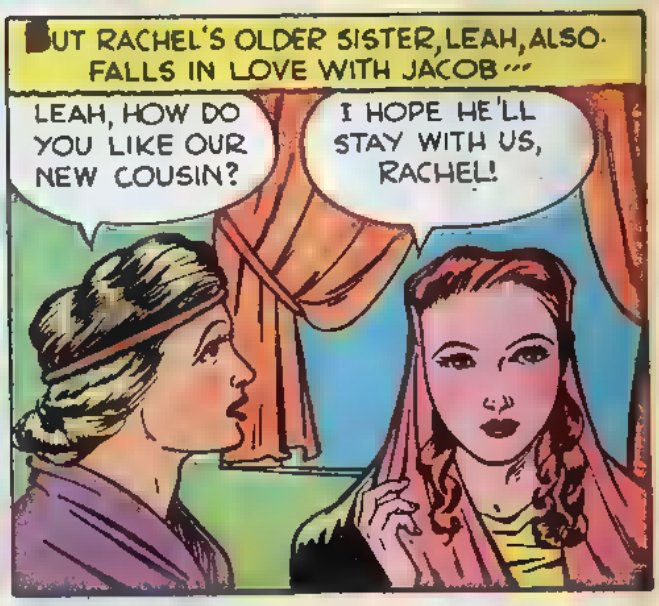

ON HIS WAY TO HIS UNCLE IN HARAN, JACOB STOPPED FOR THE NIGHT TO REST IN AN OPEN PLACE ~
I AM LONELY AND AFRAID, BUT I'LL SLEEP HERE -THESE STONES WILL DO FOR A PILLOW!


DURING THE NIGHT, WHILE JACOB SLEPT HE HAD A MARVELOUS DREAM ...
I AM THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC! THROUGH YOU, ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED ~ AND I AM WITH YOU AND WILL KEEP YOU SAFE WHEREVER YOU GO!


NEXT DAY AFTER LONG JOURNEYING, JACOB CAME TO A WELL IN A FIELD. THREE FLOCKS OF SHEEP WERE LYING NEAR IT ...
HERE'S THE SHEPHERDESS- I'LL HELP HER! -WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I AM RACHEL, LABAN'S DAUGHTER!


WHEN JACOB FOUND OUT RACHEL WAS HIS COUSIN, HE KISSED HER AND WEPT ...
I AM JACOB, YOUR COUSIN, SON OF REBECCA, YOUR FATHER'S SISTER.
I'LL GO TELL FATHER YOU'RE HERE!
AND SOMEDAY I'LL MARRY YOU!


JACOB'S UNCLE, LABAN, PERSUADES HIM TO STAY ...
YOU ARE MY KINSMAN-STAY AND WORK FOR ME AND I'LL PAY YOU WAGES!
I'LL WORK FOR YOU SEVEN YEARS FOR NOTHING IF YOU GIVE ME RACHEL FOR MY WIFE!


BUT RACHEL'S OLDER SISTER, LEAH, ALSO FALLS IN LOVE WITH JACOB ...
LEAH, HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW COUSIN?
I HOPE HE'LL STAY WITH US, RACHEL!

JACOB'S SEVEN YEARS SEEMED BUT A FEW DAYS, FOR THE LOVE HE BORE RACHEL WAS GREAT. FINALLY, THE WEDDING DAY!

AT LAST YOU'RE MINE!

DEAR JACOB! WILL YOU BE VERY ANGRY?

BUT THE VEILED BRIDE WAS NOT RACHEL, BUT LEAH-

WHAT!-THEY'VE DECEIVED ME! YOU'RE LEAH!

YES, BUT JACOB I LOVE YOU. -PLEASE!

JACOB RACES BACK TO LABAN--

BUT I WORKED SEVEN YEARS FOR RACHEL!

IT IS THE CUSTOM THAT THE OLDER SISTER MARRY FIRST-NOW, YOU MAY MARRY RACHEL, TOO!

AND SO JACOB WON RACHEL BUT THEN HE HAD TO WORK ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS--

RACHEL! AT LAST!

JACOB BELOVED!

YEARS WENT BY AND JACOB DECIDED TO TAKE HIS FAMILY HOME TO HIS PARENTS

IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE THE FIELDS I USED TO PLAY AND WORK IN!

-BUT ONE THING TROUBLED JACOB-THE WRONG HE HAD DONE TO ESAU--

DRIVE THIS HERD ON AHEAD TO ESAU FOR A GIFT-AND SO EACH DAY ANOTHER HERD-I HAVE MUCH TO MAKE UP TO MY BROTHER!

AND JACOB PRAYED THAT ESAU SHOULD NOT BE ANGRY -ONCE ALL NIGHT LONG HE WRESTLED WITH A MAN HE COULD NOT SEE--

I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME!

YOUR NAME SHALL BE NOT JACOB, BUT ISRAEL-THAT MEANS WRESTLER -WRESTLER WITH GOD!

AND THUS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL RECEIVED THEIR NAME

SO JACOB CAME TO ESAU, AND BOWED HIMSELF TO THE GROUND SEVEN TIMES, NOT KNOWING HOW ESAU WOULD RECEIVE HIM--

WHEN I WRESTLED WITH GOD I WAS NOT AFRAID -BUT I FEAR ESAU BECAUSE I WRONGED HIM!

JACOB

BUT ESAU FELL ON JACOB'S NECK AND THEY WEPT...

YOU DON'T HATE ME, ESAU, FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU?

NO, JACOB, THAT'S PAST AND FORGOTTEN! NOW SHOW ME YOUR FAMILY SO I MAY WELCOME THEM!

-AND JACOB HAD TWELVE SONS-AMONG THEM JOSEPH

The Story of DEBORAH*

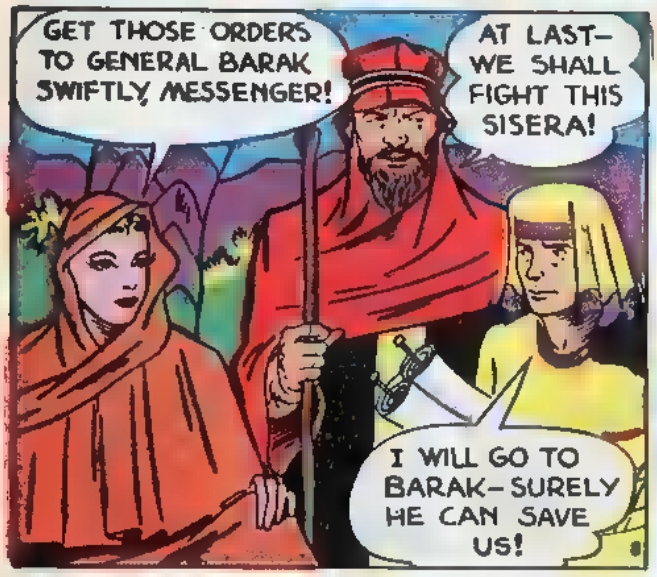
THE WOMAN JUDGE WHO SAVED ISRAEL

(FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE IN ALL THREE VERSIONS)

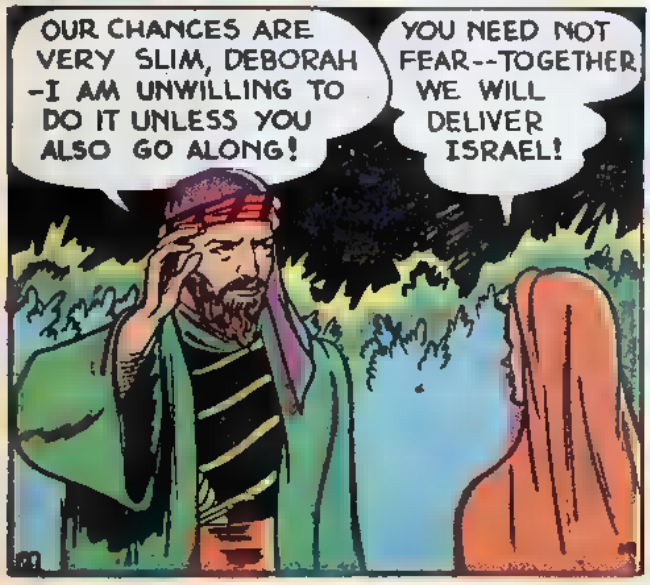
*SPELLED DEBBORA IN THE DOUAY VERSION

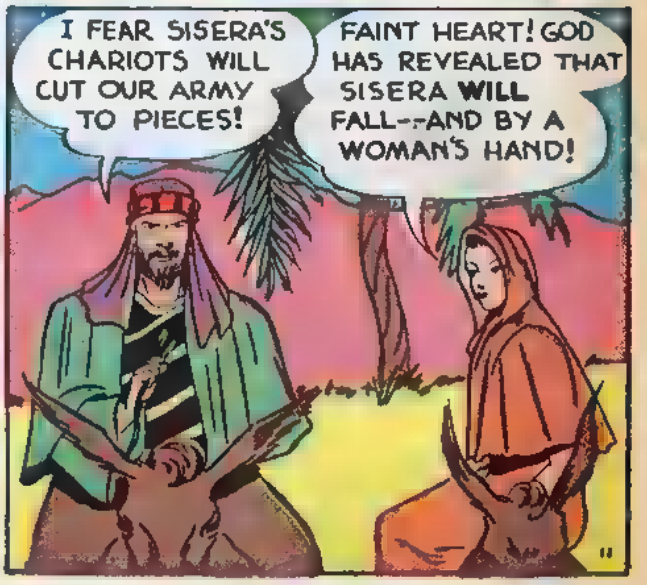
OVER ISRAEL RULED A WOMAN JUDGE AND PROPHETESS NAMED DEBORAH ~
YES, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE– I'LL DO IT!
SISERA MAKES SLAVES OF US!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OUT!

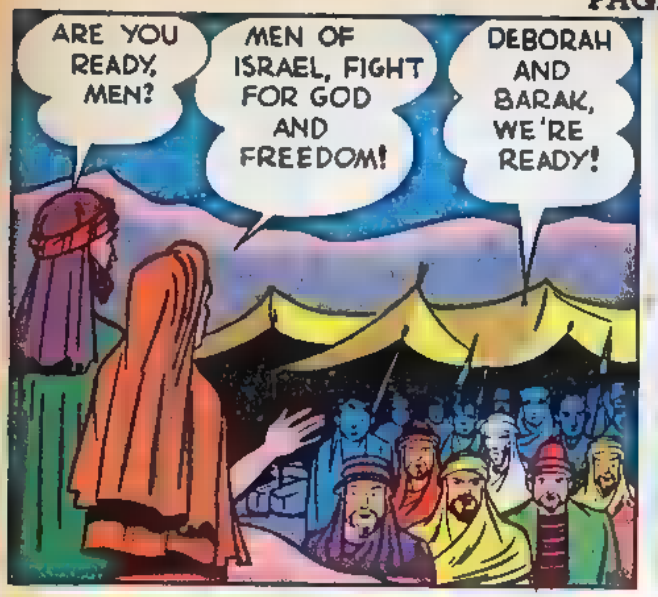
I'LL HOLD COURT HERE--CITIES ARE NOT SAFE-- I CAN THINK BETTER!
HERE AT MOUNT EPHRAIM IT'S QUIETER TOO!— WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, JUDGE DEBORAH?

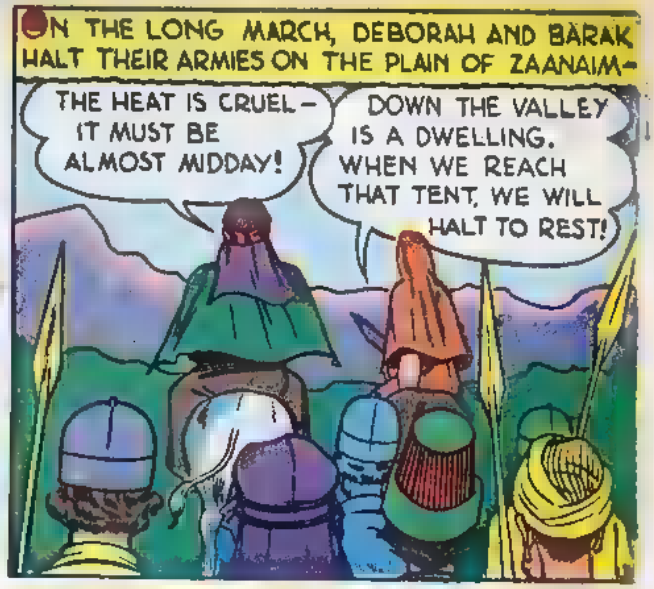

GET THOSE ORDERS TO GENERAL BARAK SWIFTLY, MESSENGER!
AT LAST– WE SHALL FIGHT THIS SISERA!
I WILL GO TO BARAK– SURELY HE CAN SAVE US!

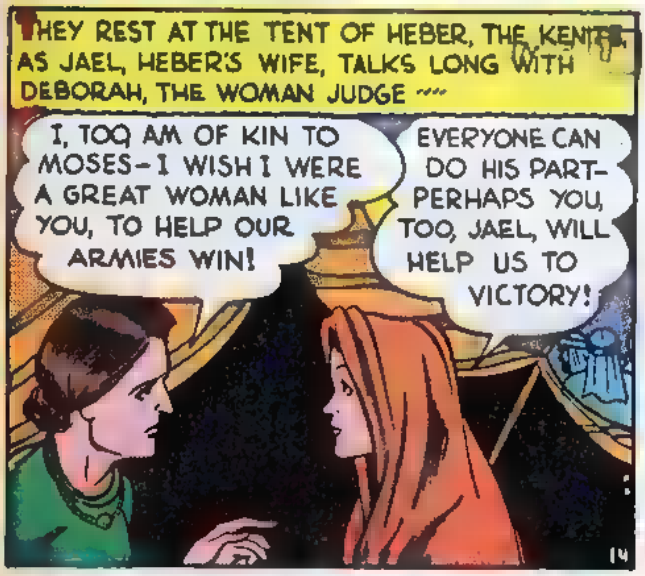
THE MESSENGER BRINGS BARAK ~~
I COME, DEBORAH! YOU WISH ME TO CALL UP AN ARMY?
AH, BARAK!--THE TIME HAS COME-- GOD HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOU MUST GO TO MT. TABOR WITH 10,000 MEN!

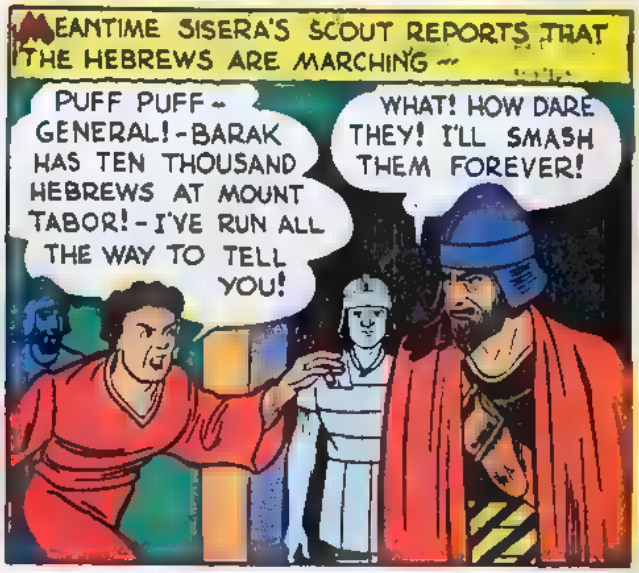

OUR CHANCES ARE VERY SLIM, DEBORAH –I AM UNWILLING TO DO IT UNLESS YOU ALSO GO ALONG!
YOU NEED NOT FEAR--TOGETHER WE WILL DELIVER ISRAEL!


I FEAR SISERA'S CHARIOTS WILL CUT OUR ARMY TO PIECES!
FAINT HEART! GOD HAS REVEALED THAT SISERA WILL FALL--AND BY A WOMAN'S HAND!


ARE YOU READY, MEN?
MEN OF ISRAEL, FIGHT FOR GOD AND FREEDOM!
DEBORAH AND BARAK, WE'RE READY!


ON THE LONG MARCH, DEBORAH AND BARAK HALT THEIR ARMIES ON THE PLAIN OF ZAANAIM—
THE HEAT IS CRUEL—IT MUST BE ALMOST MIDDAY!
DOWN THE VALLEY IS A DWELLING. WHEN WE REACH THAT TENT, WE WILL HALT TO REST!

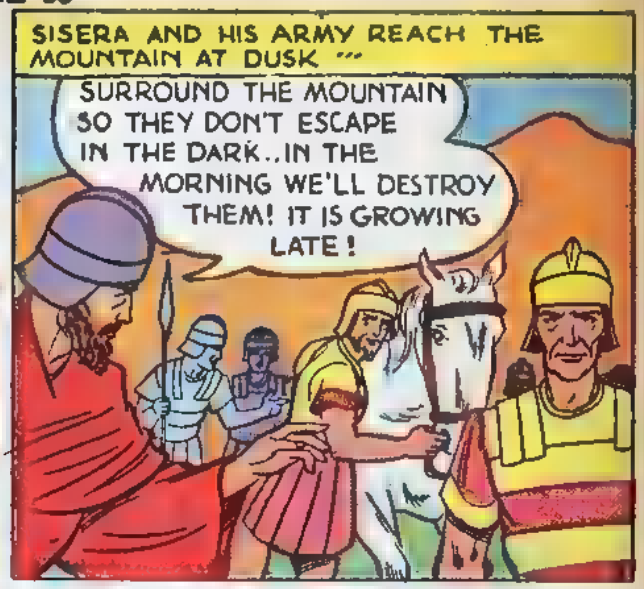

THEY REST AT THE TENT OF HEBER, THE KENITE, AS JAEL, HEBER'S WIFE, TALKS LONG WITH DEBORAH, THE WOMAN JUDGE ~~
I, TOO, AM OF KIN TO MOSES—I WISH I WERE A GREAT WOMAN LIKE YOU, TO HELP OUR ARMIES WIN!
EVERYONE CAN DO HIS PART—PERHAPS YOU, TOO, JAEL, WILL HELP US TO VICTORY!
14

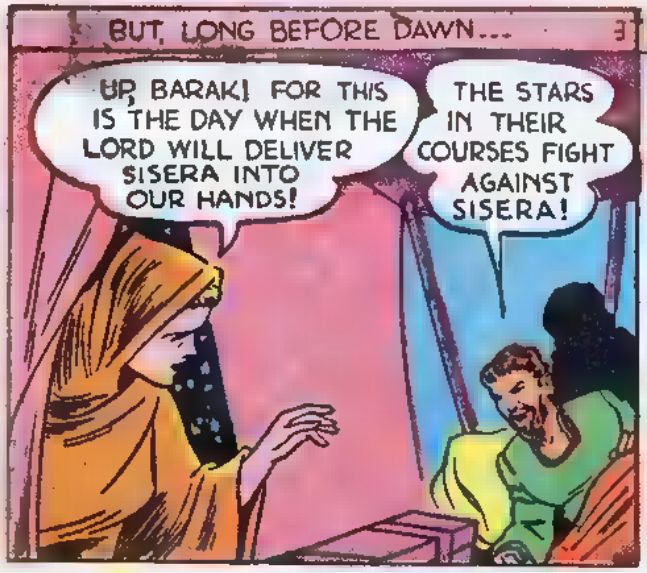

MEANTIME SISERA'S SCOUT REPORTS THAT THE HEBREWS ARE MARCHING ~~
PUFF PUFF—GENERAL!—BARAK HAS TEN THOUSAND HEBREWS AT MOUNT TABOR!—I'VE RUN ALL THE WAY TO TELL YOU!
WHAT! HOW DARE THEY! I'LL SMASH THEM FOREVER!

MAKE READY MY 900 CHARIOTS! —CRUSH THE HEBREWS UNDER IRON BATTLE-WAGONS!—I'LL TEACH THEM TO DARE TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

MEANWHILE SISERA'S ARMIES MARCHED, SEARCHING FOR THE FORCES OF BARAK~~
I MUST MAKE SURE WHERE THEY ARE--CAPTURE THOSE SHEPHERDS—WE'LL MAKE THEM TELL WHERE BARAK MARCHED!

ANOTHER FIFTY LASHES MEN! - THEN, SHEPHERDS, PERHAPS YOU'LL TALK!
NO MORE, NO MORE! I'LL TELL! THEY MARCHED TO MOUNT TABOR, BOTH GENERAL BARAK AND THE WOMAN JUDGE!


SISERA AND HIS ARMY REACH THE MOUNTAIN AT DUSK ...
SURROUND THE MOUNTAIN SO THEY DON'T ESCAPE IN THE DARK..IN THE MORNING WE'LL DESTROY THEM! IT IS GROWING LATE!


BUT, LONG BEFORE DAWN...
UP, BARAK! FOR THIS IS THE DAY WHEN THE LORD WILL DELIVER SISERA INTO OUR HANDS!
THE STARS IN THEIR COURSES FIGHT AGAINST SISERA!

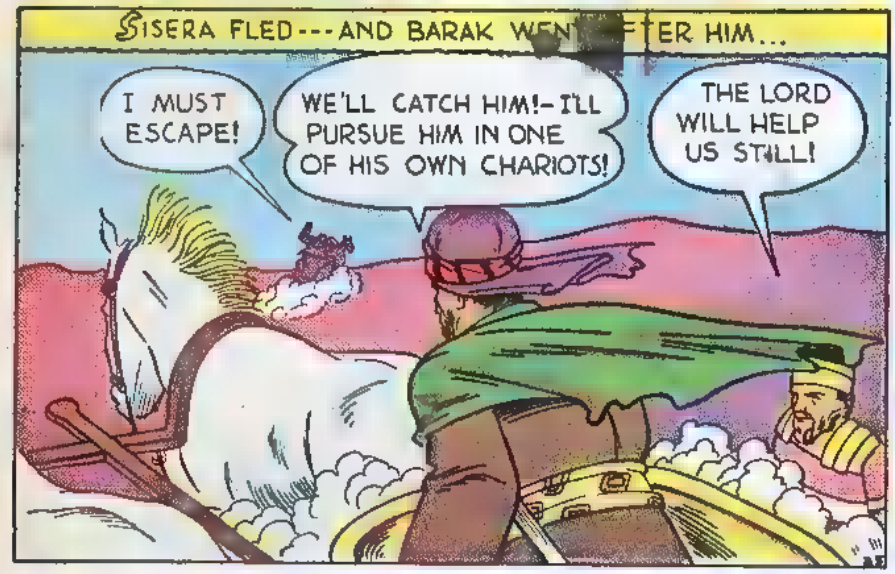
WE START! ISRAEL AND VICTORY TODAY!
YES- WE ADVANCE AT ONCE!

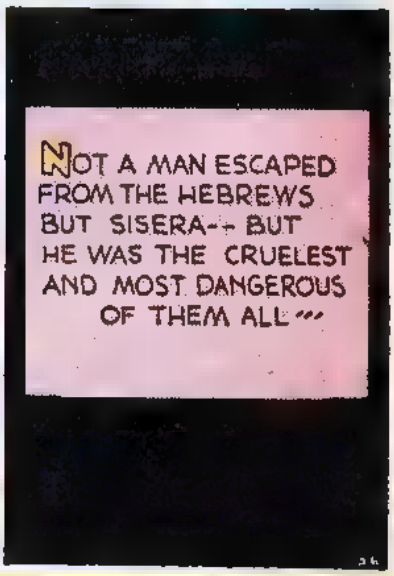
THE HEBREWS CHARGE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE DAWN

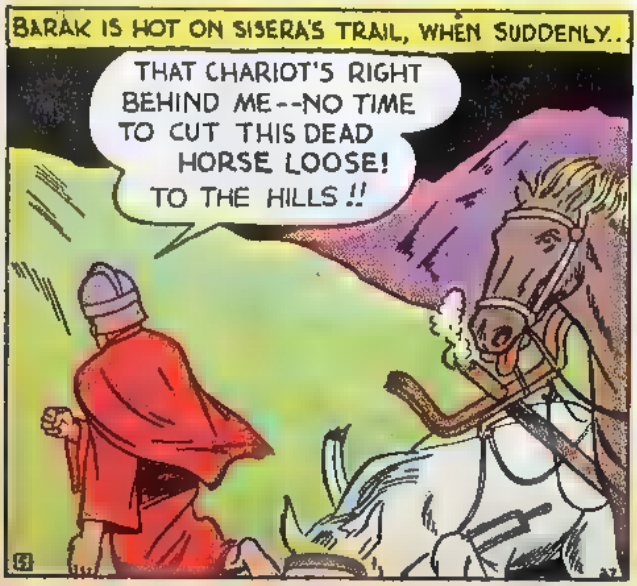
FIGHT! STAND! HOLD
BUT GOD IS ON OUR SIDE!

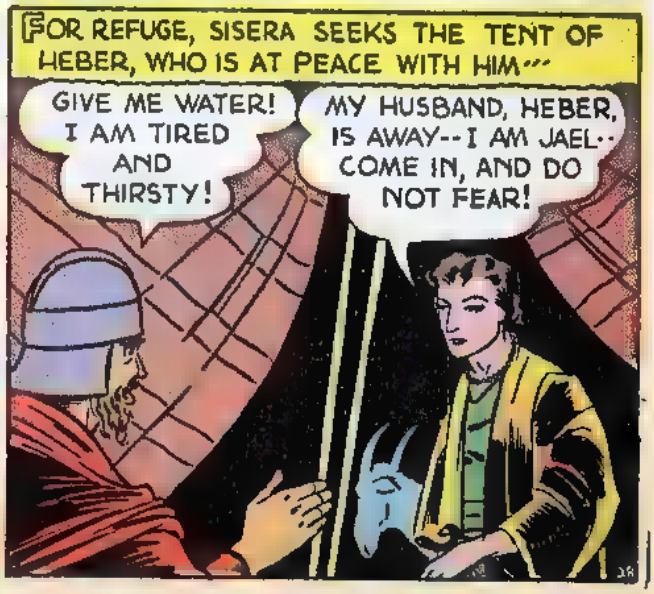
YOU DON'T GET AWAY SISERA!
HOLD HIM, WE'RE COMING!
HELP!

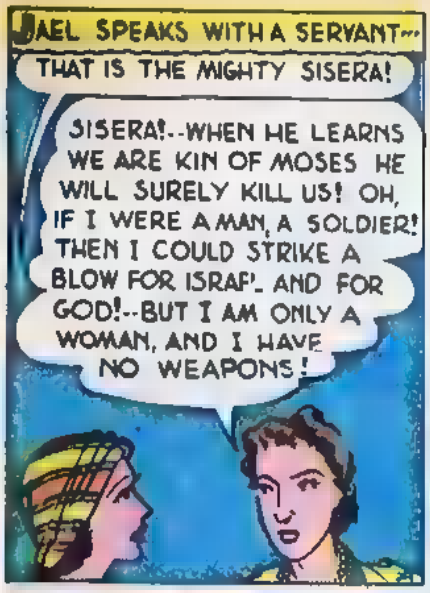
BACK, DOG! NO ONE WILL STOP ME!
MY EYES! I AM BLINDED!

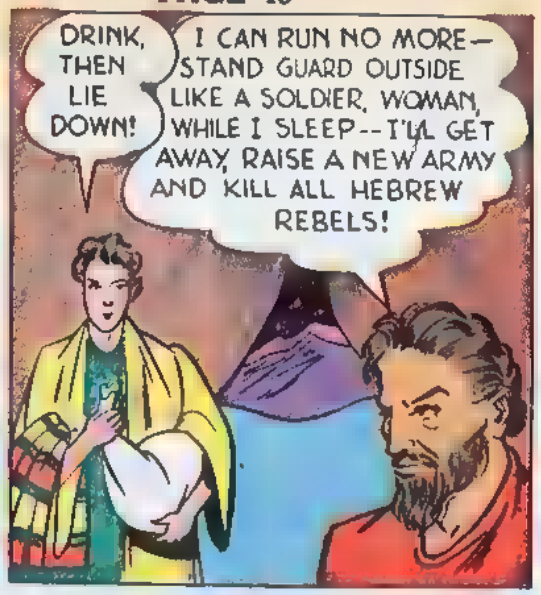

SISERA FLED---AND BARAK WENT AFTER HIM...
I MUST ESCAPE!
WE'LL CATCH HIM!-I'LL PURSUE HIM IN ONE OF HIS OWN CHARIOTS!
THE LORD WILL HELP US STILL!


NOT A MAN ESCAPED FROM THE HEBREWS BUT SISERA-- BUT HE WAS THE CRUELEST AND MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL...


BARAK IS HOT ON SISERA'S TRAIL, WHEN SUDDENLY..
THAT CHARIOT'S RIGHT BEHIND ME--NO TIME TO CUT THIS DEAD HORSE LOOSE! TO THE HILLS!!


FOR REFUGE, SISERA SEEKS THE TENT OF HEBER, WHO IS AT PEACE WITH HIM...
GIVE ME WATER! I AM TIRED AND THIRSTY!
MY HUSBAND, HEBER, IS AWAY--I AM JAEL--COME IN, AND DO NOT FEAR!

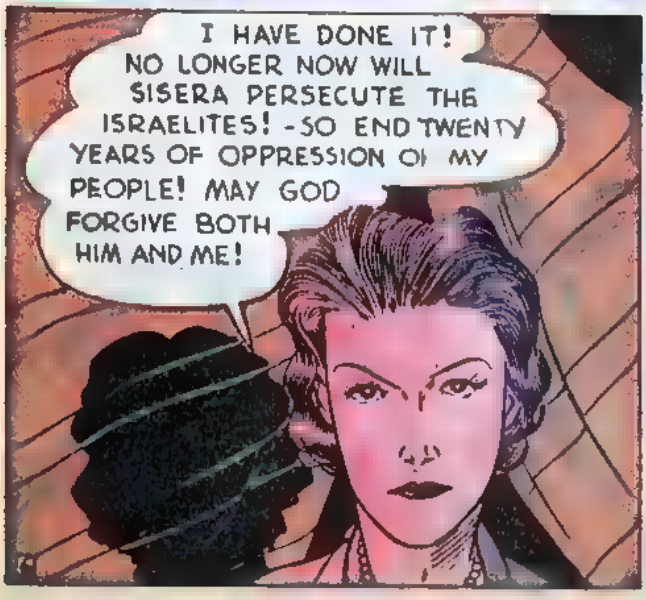

JAEL SPEAKS WITH A SERVANT--
THAT IS THE MIGHTY SISERA!
SISERA!--WHEN HE LEARNS WE ARE KIN OF MOSES HE WILL SURELY KILL US! OH, IF I WERE A MAN, A SOLDIER! THEN I COULD STRIKE A BLOW FOR ISRAEL AND FOR GOD!--BUT I AM ONLY A WOMAN, AND I HAVE NO WEAPONS!

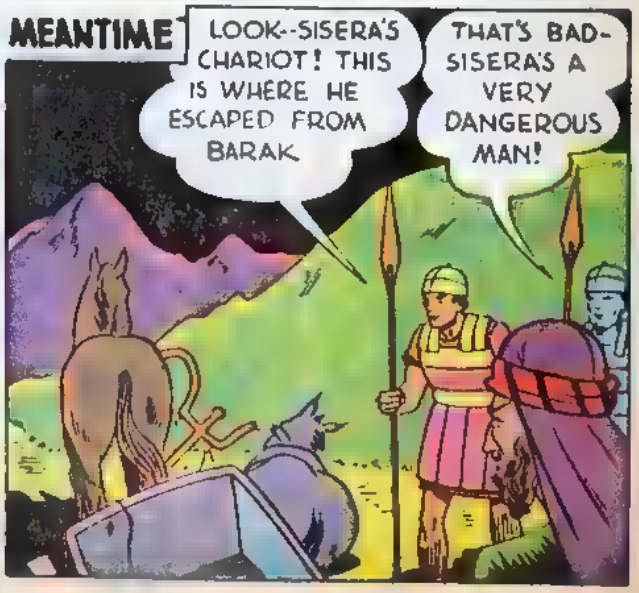

DRINK, THEN LIE DOWN!
I CAN RUN NO MORE—STAND GUARD OUTSIDE LIKE A SOLDIER, WOMAN, WHILE I SLEEP--I'LL GET AWAY, RAISE A NEW ARMY AND KILL ALL HEBREW REBELS!

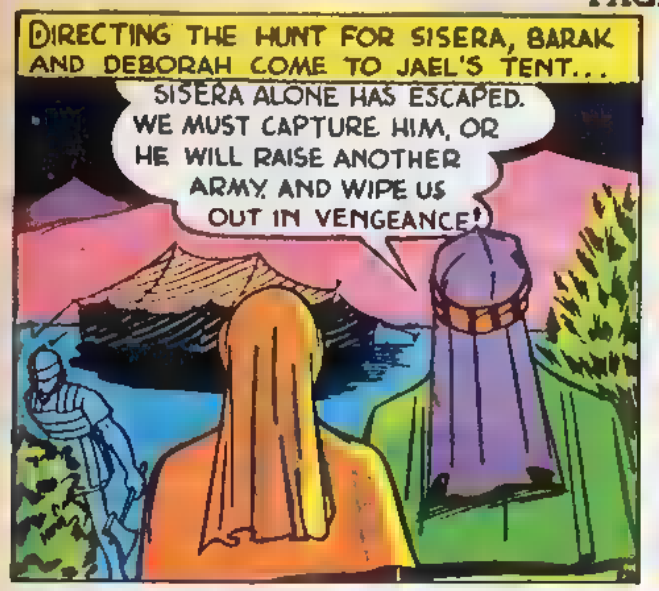
JAEL OUTSIDE THE TENT
HE WILL KILL ME—OUGHT I KILL HIM? "STAND GUARD LIKE A SOLDIER" THAT'S IT!--BUT A SOLDIER OF THE LORD GOD!-IF ONLY I HAD A WEAPON!

A SIGN FROM HEAVEN! HERE ARE WEAPONS! DEBORAH SAID THAT PERHAPS I, TOO, COULD STRIKE A BLOW TO DELIVER ISRAEL!

HE SLEEPS--THIS IS THE TIME! I STRIKE FOR ISRAEL!

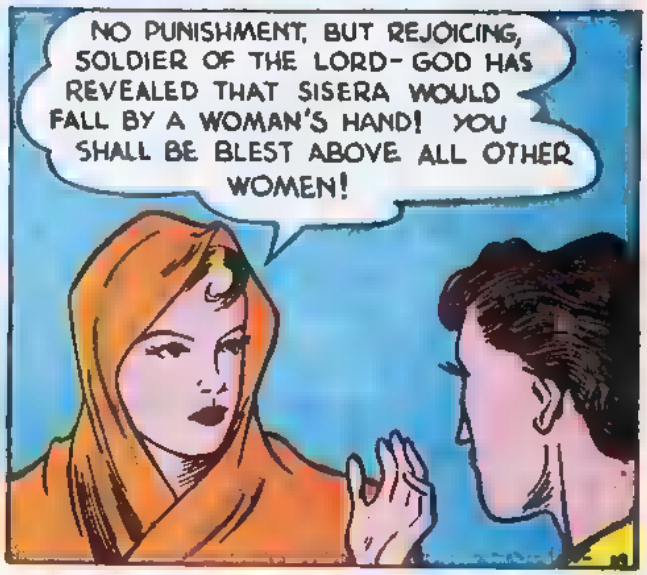

I HAVE DONE IT! NO LONGER NOW WILL SISERA PERSECUTE THE ISRAELITES! -SO END TWENTY YEARS OF OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE! MAY GOD FORGIVE BOTH HIM AND ME!


MEANTIME
LOOK--SISERA'S CHARIOT! THIS IS WHERE HE ESCAPED FROM BARAK
THAT'S BAD-SISERA'S A VERY DANGEROUS MAN!

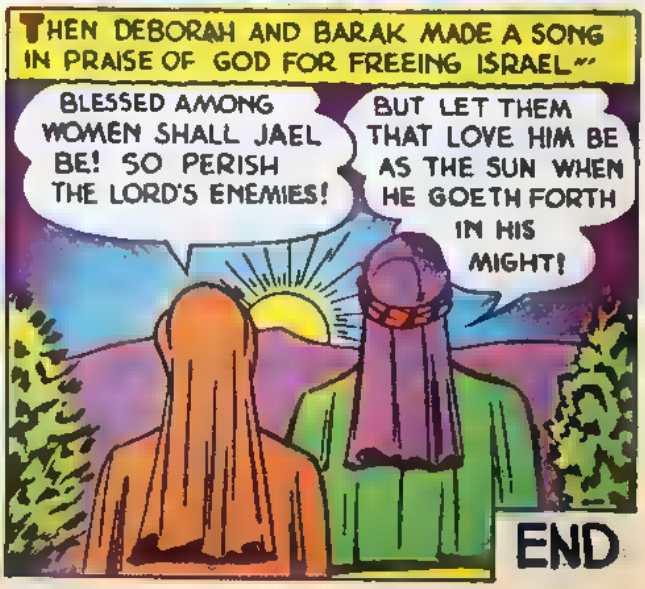

DIRECTING THE HUNT FOR SISERA, BARAK AND DEBORAH COME TO JAEL'S TENT...
SISERA ALONE HAS ESCAPED. WE MUST CAPTURE HIM, OR HE WILL RAISE ANOTHER ARMY AND WIPE US OUT IN VENGEANCE!

COME AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE MAN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR- -I HAVE SLAIN HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS!

JUDGE ME MERCIFULLY DEBORAH! - TELL ME THE PUNISHMENT FOR MY TRANSGRESSION


NO PUNISHMENT, BUT REJOICING, SOLDIER OF THE LORD- GOD HAS REVEALED THAT SISERA WOULD FALL BY A WOMAN'S HAND! YOU SHALL BE BLEST ABOVE ALL OTHER WOMEN!

"THE ISRAELITES MARCH HOME"
GOD AND ISRAEL TRIUMPH TODAY!


"THEN DEBORAH AND BARAK MADE A SONG IN PRAISE OF GOD FOR FREEING ISRAEL"
BLESSED AMONG WOMEN SHALL JAEL BE! SO PERISH THE LORD'S ENEMIES!
BUT LET THEM THAT LOVE HIM BE AS THE SUN WHEN HE GOETH FORTH IN HIS MIGHT!
END

"THE STORY OF THE TOWER OF BABEL"

FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS - CHAPTER 11 IN ALL THREE VERSIONS

IN THE DAYS after Noah and his children left the Ark and began to increase and multiply, every man, woman and child on the earth spoke the same language.

"We shall continue to increase and grow," the people said, "until we cover the earth." And the Lord God was pleased.

"Yet," one man who was young and ambitious, declared, "is that all we have to conquer?"

As time went on, other men began to think about this. Indeed, there was more than the earth! Above the earth were the clouds, above the clouds was Heaven, dwelling place of the Lord God, Himself!

Could not man reach into Heaven and perhaps find an audience with God? If man was created in His image, could not this same man talk with God? So thought certain arrogant men in Shinar-land. It would at any rate be worth trying!

The people of the earth had been happy until now. Finally, one day, a daring designer spoke out. He talked before a vast multitude of the people on the plain of Shinar. And he gave voice to two very startling ideas.

"First," said this man, who was an architect and builder, "we must build a strong city, in the center of our plain. We must have houses that will endure all sorts of weather and conditions. Let us construct this city as a memorial to ourselves.

"You have talked of reaching up to Heaven, but have you decided how this can be accomplished?"

The multitudes murmured; and when quietness was restored, no one seemed to have any plan. They had talked about reaching the Lord God's Heaven, without knowing how to go about it.

"God created man to govern the earth," the architect spoke on again. "Now — let us build up to His Heaven!"

It was a daring, arrogant thought, but the people, already stirred up, clamored at the suggestion. When the clamor ceased, the architect made some concluding remarks to them.

"A great and mighty temple, built in the center of our great city-to-be, would be in order. I have worked out plans, mathematically proper. This temple would rise about our houses, through the clouds, and touch the gates of Heaven!"

Probably there were some who were afraid; but the voice of the majority won. These who trembled fearfully at what might be the consequences were silenced in the furore that followed. It was agreed that work should begin at once; that the city should be built first, a place in its center cleared, and the temple started afterward.

Men set to work to create giant ovens, and bring fuel to make heat. Others dug for clay to be baked in the ovens into bricks. Still others gathered lime to make into mortar to hold the bricks together. From sunrise to sunset men worked. Scores cleared the site for the city and leveled the grounds.

The city was laid out first, with an immense vacant lot in its middle, where the temple should rise.

"Will God praise our work?" one hesitant citizen inquired; but everyone was so busy that they paid him no heed. They could not pause to answer such questions.

After many days, the city started to take form as the greatest city on the face of the earth! A city of permanent houses, set to a pattern. How proud those people of Shinar were!

And then came the foundation for the mighty temple. Some people gasped at the dimensions.

Slowly, as the days passed, the temple began to take form, and arise. The oven tenders were the busiest men there; the bricklayers never ceased until darkness came each day. They worked earnestly, furiously They were caught up in their own dreams.

As the tower rose, the Lord God looked down in wonder and in astonishment. Yet He was not pleased. These men had become too proud, too boastful, and they had forgotten the reverence due their Lord God. Men had yet to learn that their working place, their home, was earth. This was not the way to Heaven!

So it was, that God's voice was heard upon the earth.

"I warn you that, if you build this temple into the mighty tower which you have planned, piercing Heaven, punishment cannot be avoided!"

But the men of Shinar paid small heed to the warning Voice. They had grown too sure of themselves, too certain that they would win greater glory.

The temple rose higher and higher toward the clouds. Not an hour was let go by in idleness. Man's arrogance was superb.

One day God's wrath came upon mankind. "I warned you that the world would suffer, and you would be punished, if this tower were to continue," came the Voice. "Must I threaten you to make you stop?"

Some there were who, hearing the Voice of the Lord God, hesitated. Yet most of them continued the building as if what they had heard had been a passing dream.

The most audacious said: "Will not man soon reach Heaven and talk with the Lord God Himself?"

The tower was now penetrating to a stupendous height, piercing through the clouds. No other temple ever would equal its great height!

"For this blindness to your Lord God, and because of your boastful pride, I will send punishment down upon you!"

Thus spoke the Lord God once again, cryptic and final.

The city was complete; the temple had still a long way to go before completion. Yet it already was majestic, titanic. And then the Lord God kept his word.

As the men feverishly pursued the building, they were suddenly brought to a strange and awesome halt.

God said: "Because you have not listened, when I warned you, from now on you will be unable to speak understandably with one another!"

Each man looked at the one nearest him. Each man said something to his neighbor. But lo and behold, no man could understand what the other said!

They tried again. But each man spoke in a different tongue!

Now they were afraid, and began to tremble, and too late, to realize exactly what their Lord God had meant.

"We have disobeyed our Lord God!" they cried. Because each now spoke a different tongue, none understood the other. And they shook with fear and began scrambling from the scaffolds and the walls, and hastened below to the ground.

Men were as fearful as frightened animals.

No more was the tower builded. From the wide plain of Shinar, men fled swiftly, deserting their houses and all their works.

God spoke yet once more: "Now each family will have a new language, and so shall it be upon earth. Nations will arise, separated by different tongues.

"And as a monument to man's folly and his pride, this great temple shall remain unfinished and in ruins, as a warning to future generations!

"This temple shall be called the Tower of Babel, for here was a babel of voices, and confusion of tongues, punishment upon man for his defiance of Heaven!"

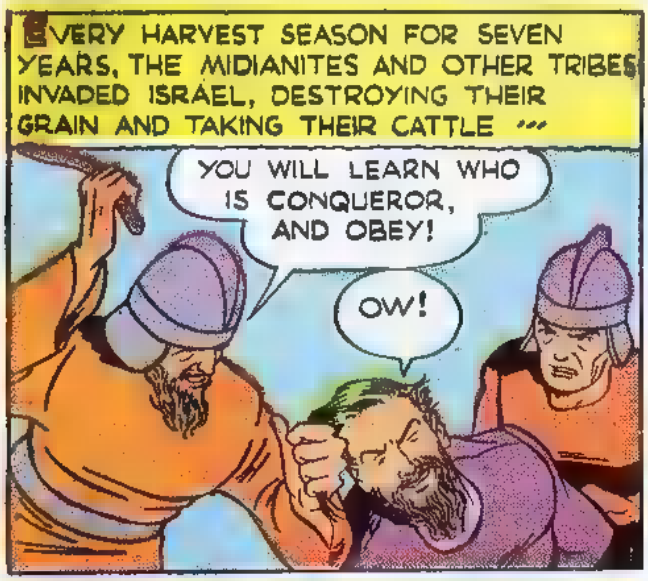
The Lord God spoke no more, and the plain of Shinar became deserted. From that day to this, the world has had many languages, so that no man is able to build in boastfulness to rival his Lord God in Heaven.

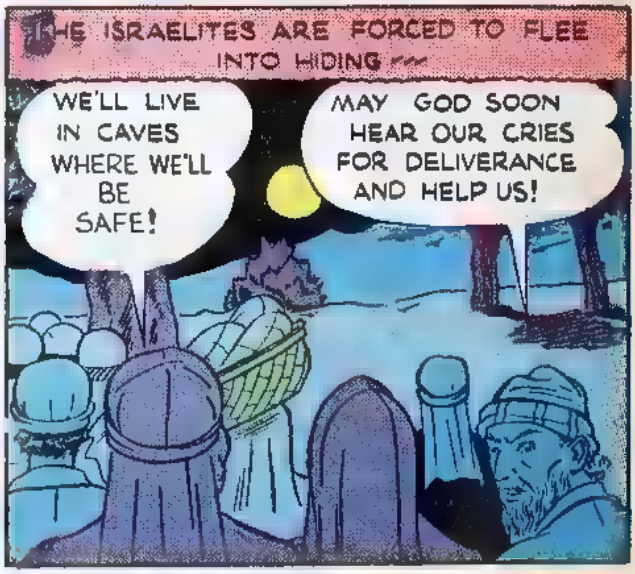
THE STORY OF GIDEON*

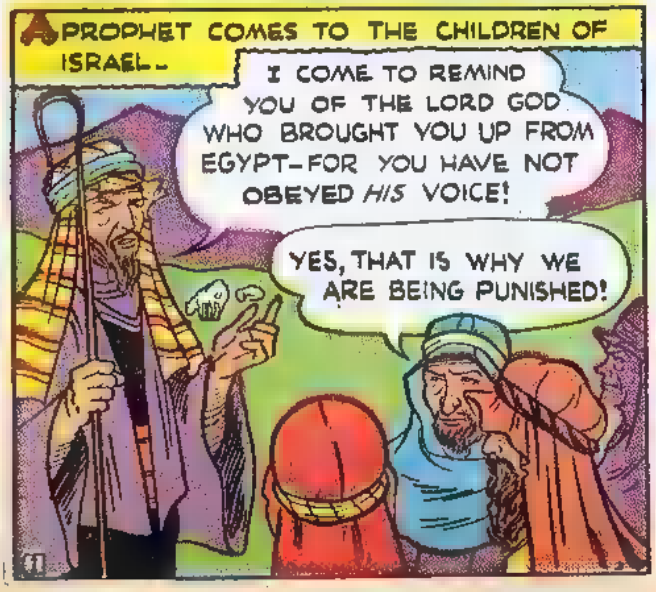
THE FARMER WARRIOR WHO FREED ISRAEL YET REFUSED TO BECOME HER KING

(FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES, CHAPTERS 6-8 KING JAMES, DOUAY AND J.P.S.A. VERSIONS)

*SPELLED GEDEON IN THE DOUAY VERSION--







AT ONE PLACE A MAN BESIDE A WINEPRESS SECRETLY THRESHES WHEAT ---
HOW LONG I CAN DO THIS, GOD ONLY KNOWS! - IF I'M CAUGHT---

SUDDENLY
GO, GIDEON, AND SAVE ISRAEL FROM THE MIDIANITES!
BUT I AM FROM A POOR FAMILY! NOBODY KNOWS ME - GIVE ME SOME SIGN FROM YOURSELF!

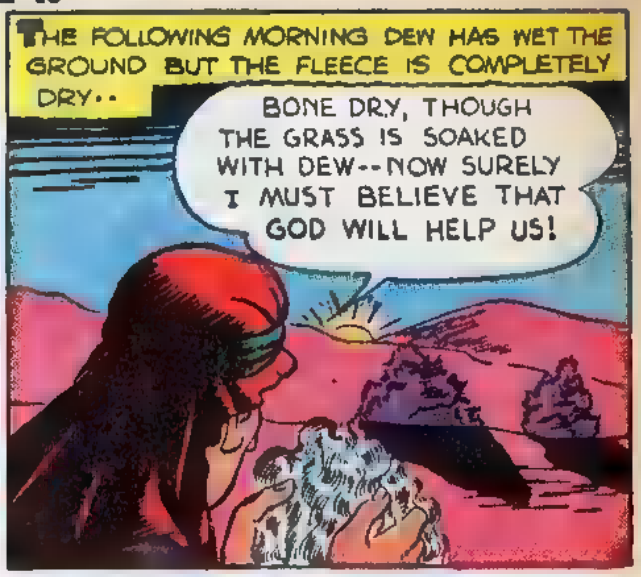
GIDEON OFFERS A KID AND SMALL CAKES AS A SACRIFICE; AND AS HE PLACES THE KID ON A ROCK SUDDENLY---
AN ANGEL STRIKING FIRE! -- NOW I KNOW GOD IS WITH ME!

THAT NIGHT GIDEON WITH TEN PICKED MEN SMASHED BAAL, A HEATHEN IDOL ---
DESTROY THIS FALSE GOD AND THE SACRED GROVE!
WE DEFY THE POWER OF BAAL!

GIDEON KNOWS THAT SMASHING THE IDOL MEANS WAR. SO ...
THIS IS THE CALL TO ARMS!
YES, AND MESSENGERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO OTHER TRIBES WHO WILL MEET HERE!

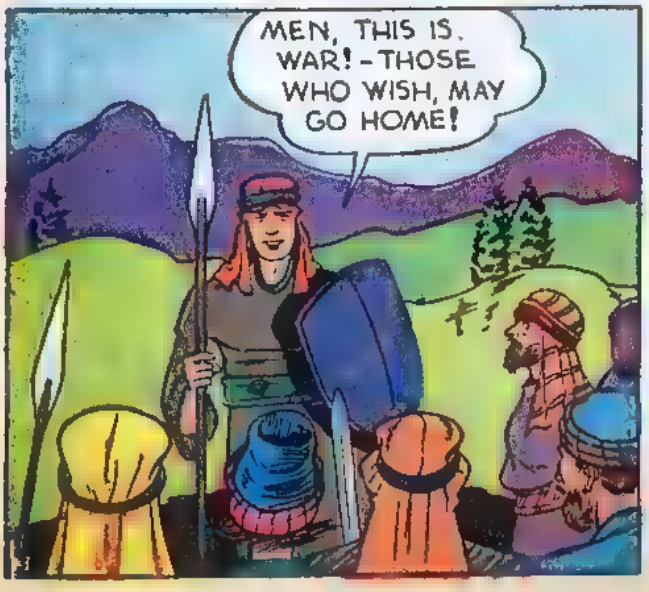
WE'RE READY, GIDEON!
WE'LL FIGHT!
THOUSANDS COME!

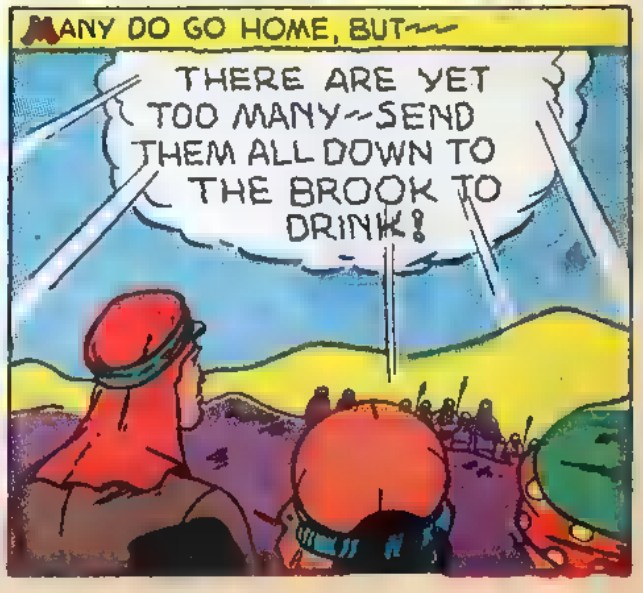
FEARING TO RISK PEOPLE'S LIVES NEEDLESSLY, GIDEON REQUESTS A SIGN FROM THE LORD.. A FLEECE IS LEFT ON THE GROUND ALL NIGHT, AND NEXT MORNING...
LOOK! THE GRASS IS DRY, BUT THIS FLEECE IS WRINGING WET WITH DEW!


THE FOLLOWING MORNING DEW HAS WET THE GROUND BUT THE FLEECE IS COMPLETELY DRY..
BONE DRY, THOUGH THE GRASS IS SOAKED WITH DEW--NOW SURELY I MUST BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL HELP US!

TO THE HILL OF MOREH WHERE THE ENEMY IS!
WE CAN BEAT THEM— WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF MEN!

THE LORD SPOKE AGAIN TO GIDEON--
YOU HAVE TOO MANY MEN--SEND SOME HOME AND I WILL REVEAL MY POWER!
YES, LORD! - I OBEY!

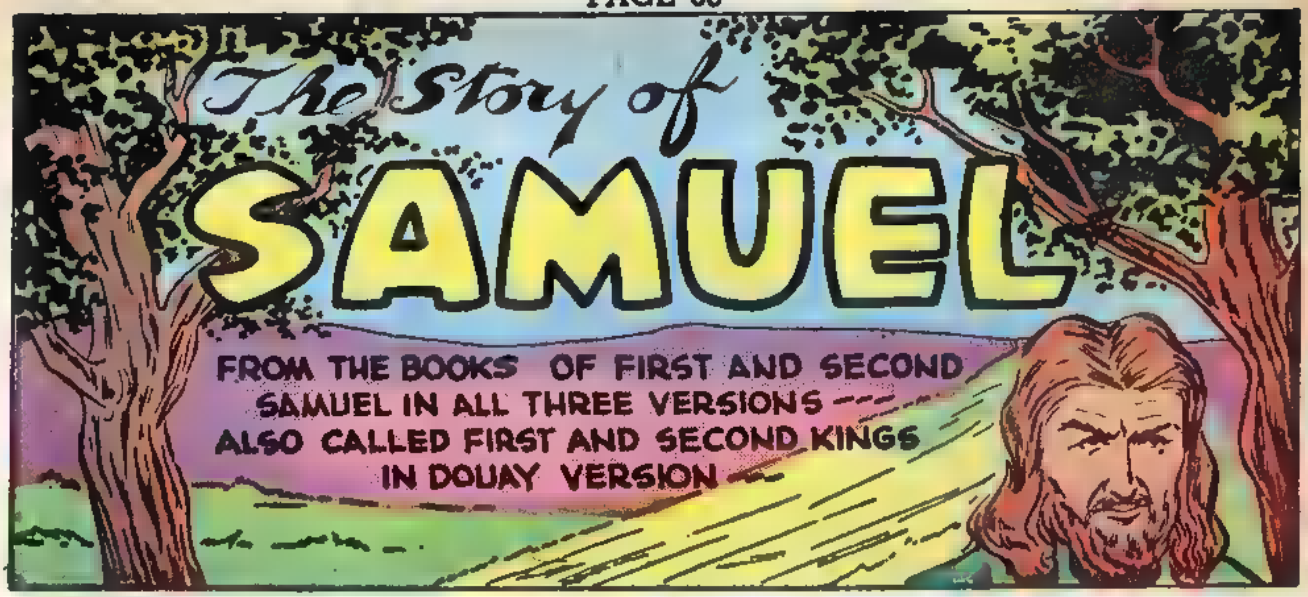

MEN, THIS IS WAR! - THOSE WHO WISH, MAY GO HOME!

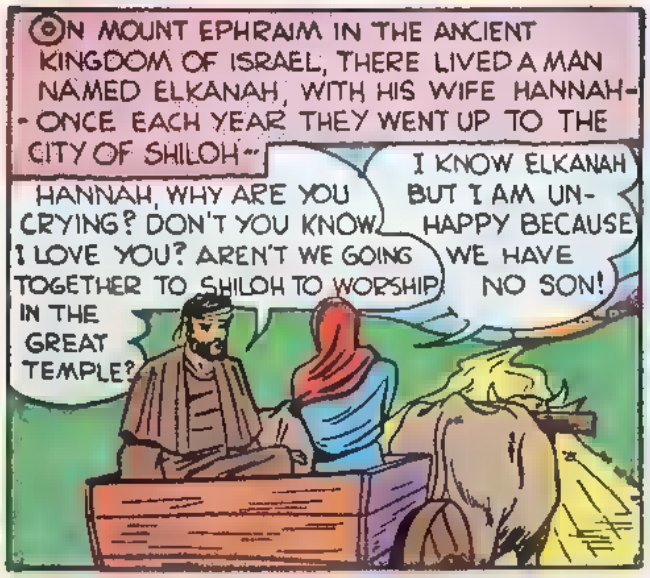

MANY DO GO HOME, BUT--
THERE ARE YET TOO MANY--SEND THEM ALL DOWN TO THE BROOK TO DRINK!

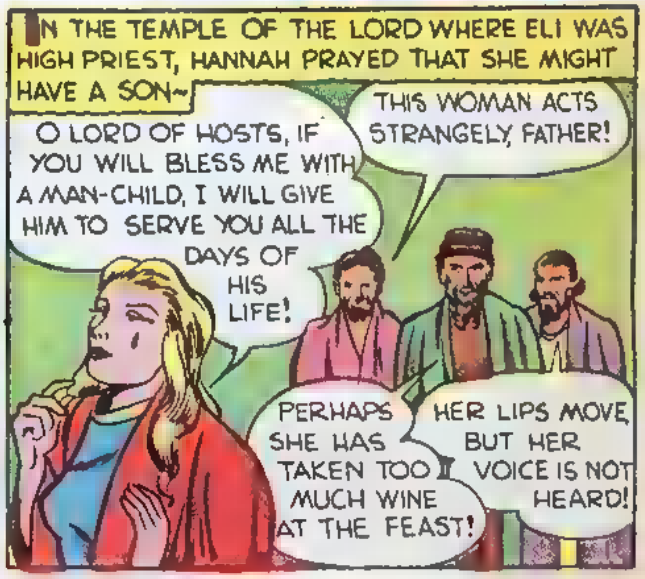
ONLY A FEW DO NOT KNEEL WHILE DRINKING; THESE REMAIN ON THE ALERT, HOLDING THEIR WEAPONS IN ONE HAND.
ARE THEY THE MEN WHO HAD REFUSED TO KNEEL TO BAAL?
GOD TELLS GIDEON TO PICK OUT THESE 300 MEN..
NOW RUN AND PICK OUT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE REFUSED TO KNEEL TO DRINK!! - SEND THE REST HOME!
BUT GIDEON, WE'LL HAVE ONLY THREE HUNDRED MEN!
MEN, GOD HAS PICKED YOU FOR A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT, BUT YOU WILL WIN!
THE MIDIANITES APPROACH AND PITCH THEIR TENTS IN THE VALLEY BELOW...
THEY'VE PITCHED CAMP! NOW WE WILL WORK OUT A PLAN OF ATTACK!
GIDEON KNOWS HE MUST USE STRATEGY WITH SO FEW MEN..HE CREEPS TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE MIDIANITE TENTS AT NIGHT AND OVERHEARS..
I HAD A STRANGE DREAM- A CAKE OF BARLEY BREAD CAME TUMBLING IN UPON US AND DESTROYED OUR CAMP!
THIS MEANS THAT GOD WILL DELIVER US MIDIANITES INTO GIDEON'S HANDS!

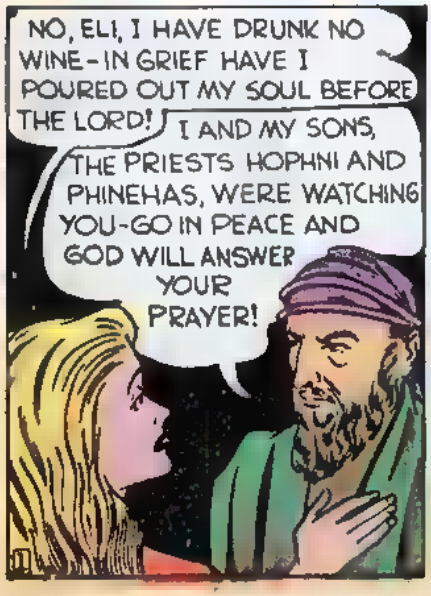
THE SUDDEN NIGHT ATTACK AND THE SHOUTING BRING TERROR TO THE CAMP OF THE MIDIANITES- AND THEY FLEE IN PANIC ~~

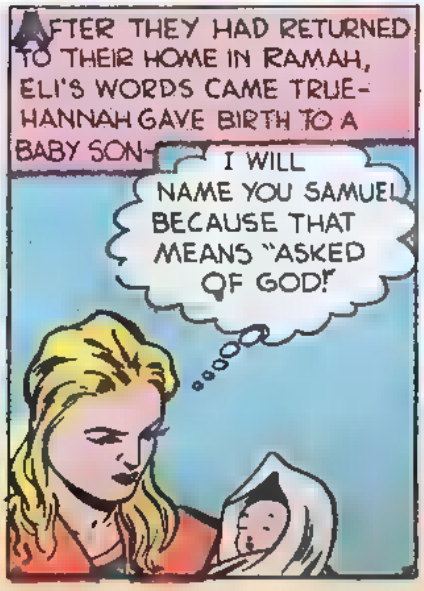
AFTER THE BATTLE IS WON
WE ARE NOW FREE OF ALL OUR ENEMIES... WE CAN LIVE AT PEACE!
GIDEON HAS FREED US! LET US MAKE HIM KING!
NOW THAT I HAVE DONE MY JOB, BACK TO MY WORK AS A FARMER!
ALTHOUGH ENTREATED TO SERVE AS KING, GIDEON REFUSES ...
RULE US, ONLY YOU!
HAIL GIDEON! BE OUR KING!
THE HONOR IS GREAT, BUT I WILL NOT RULE - YOU HAVE ONLY ONE KING--THE LORD-- HE SHALL ALONE RULE!
ALL I ASK FOR IS THE GOLD EARRINGS TAKEN FROM OUR ENEMIES --- WITH THESE I WILL ORNAMENT A ROBE AS A REMEMBRANCE OF OUR VICTORY!
MAY WE ALWAYS OBEY THE LORD SO THAT WE SHALL NOT BE ATTACKED AGAIN FOR DISOBEDIENCE--GO HOME AND LIVE IN PEACE!
GIDEON WILL NOT BE OUR KING, BUT HE RULES US BY HIS GREATNESS!
ISRAEL HAD FORTY YEARS OF PEACE!
AND THOUGH GIDEON REFUSED TO BECOME KING OF ISRAEL, HE LIVED LONG AND HAD MANY SONS--
GIDEON, OUR FATHER, IS STILL LOVED BY ALL ISRAEL!
AND HIS GREAT DEEDS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED!
END


The Story of
SAMUEL
FROM THE BOOKS OF FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL IN ALL THREE VERSIONS --- ALSO CALLED FIRST AND SECOND KINGS IN DOUAY VERSION --

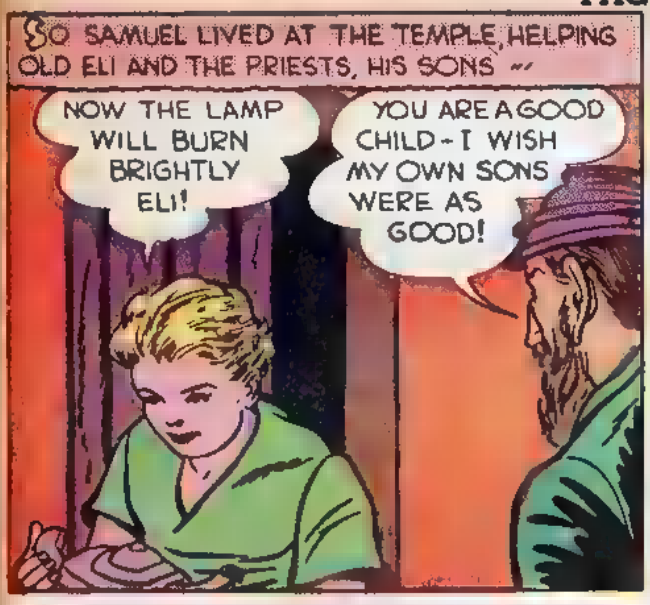

ON MOUNT EPHRAIM IN THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, THERE LIVED A MAN NAMED ELKANAH, WITH HIS WIFE HANNAH-- ONCE EACH YEAR THEY WENT UP TO THE CITY OF SHILOH--
HANNAH, WHY ARE YOU CRYING? DON'T YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU? AREN'T WE GOING TOGETHER TO SHILOH TO WORSHIP IN THE GREAT TEMPLE?
I KNOW ELKANAH BUT I AM UNHAPPY BECAUSE WE HAVE NO SON!


IN THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD WHERE ELI WAS HIGH PRIEST, HANNAH PRAYED THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE A SON--
O LORD OF HOSTS, IF YOU WILL BLESS ME WITH A MAN-CHILD, I WILL GIVE HIM TO SERVE YOU ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE!
THIS WOMAN ACTS STRANGELY, FATHER!
PERHAPS SHE HAS TAKEN TOO MUCH WINE AT THE FEAST!
HER LIPS MOVE, BUT HER VOICE IS NOT HEARD!

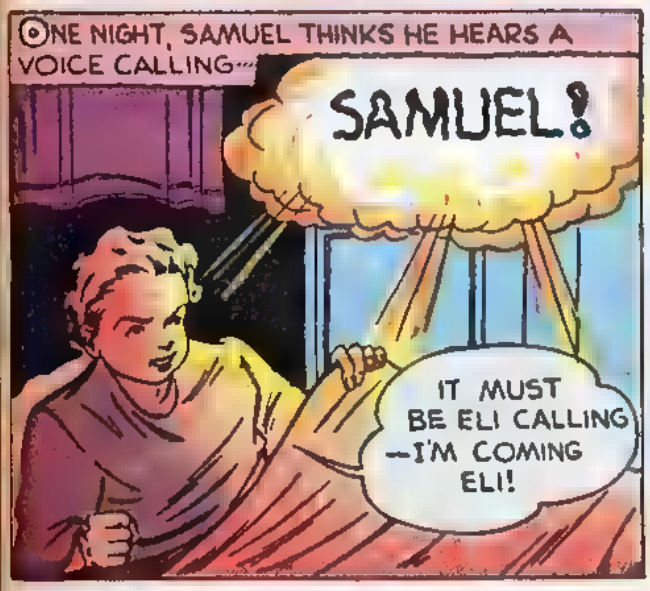

NO, ELI, I HAVE DRUNK NO WINE-IN GRIEF HAVE I POURED OUT MY SOUL BEFORE THE LORD!
I AND MY SONS, THE PRIESTS HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS, WERE WATCHING YOU-GO IN PEACE AND GOD WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYER!


AFTER THEY HAD RETURNED TO THEIR HOME IN RAMAH, ELI'S WORDS CAME TRUE- HANNAH GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY SON--
I WILL NAME YOU SAMUEL BECAUSE THAT MEANS "ASKED OF GOD!"

THREE YEARS LATER--
AND AS I VOWED, ELI, I BRING MY SON SAMUEL TO YOU-I AM LENDING HIM TO GOD!
HE WILL LIVE HERE WITH ME IN THE TEMPLE- AND LEARN TO SERVE GOD!
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY MOTHER!

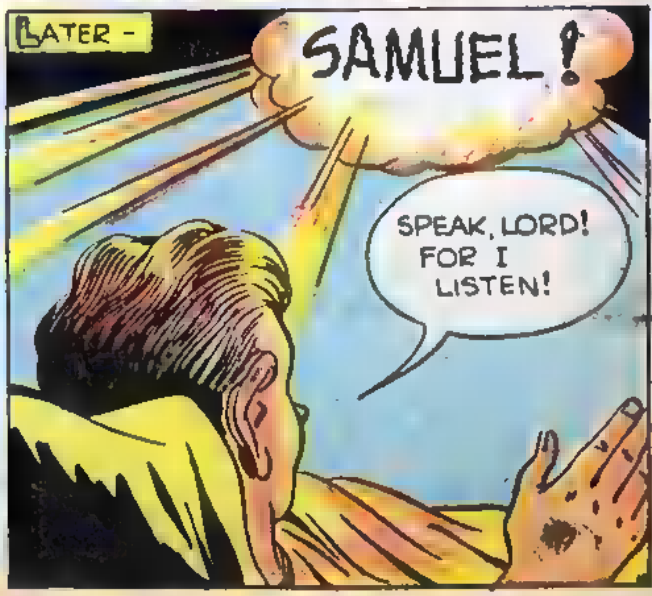

SO SAMUEL LIVED AT THE TEMPLE, HELPING OLD ELI AND THE PRIESTS, HIS SONS ~~
NOW THE LAMP WILL BURN BRIGHTLY ELI!
YOU ARE A GOOD CHILD - I WISH MY OWN SONS WERE AS GOOD!

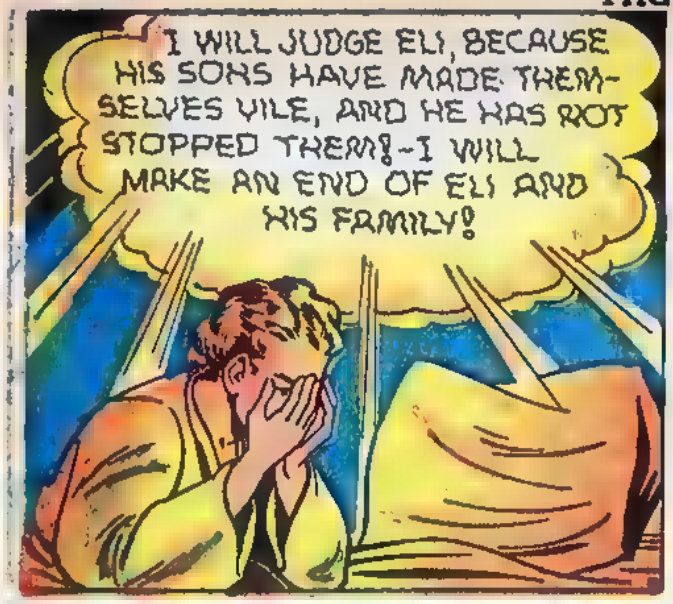
BUT HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DID MANY WRONG THINGS, TAKING BRIBES AND ABUSING THE HIGH OFFICE OF PRIESTS ~~
MY BROTHER AND I WILL FIX IT FOR YOU..
IF YOU DO THERE'LL BE MORE MONEY FOR YOU!


ONE NIGHT, SAMUEL THINKS HE HEARS A VOICE CALLING~~
SAMUEL!
IT MUST BE ELI CALLING —I'M COMING ELI!

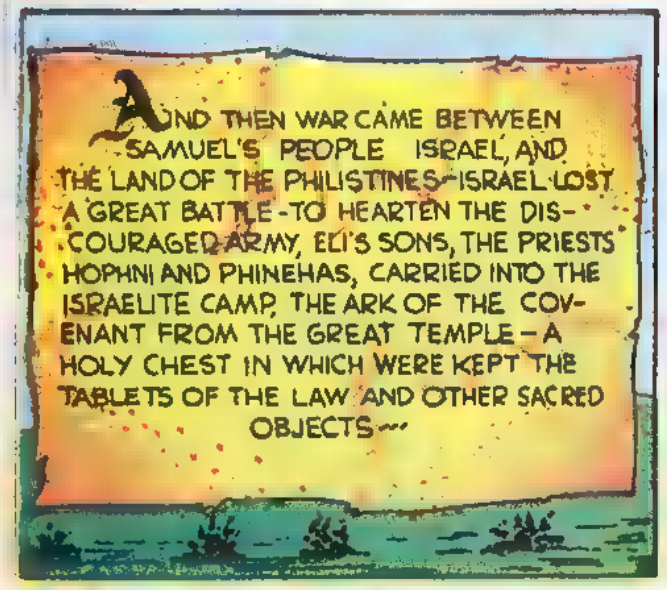
HERE I AM! - I HEARD YOU CALLING!
I DIDN'T CALL YOU, SAMUEL! GO AND LIE DOWN!

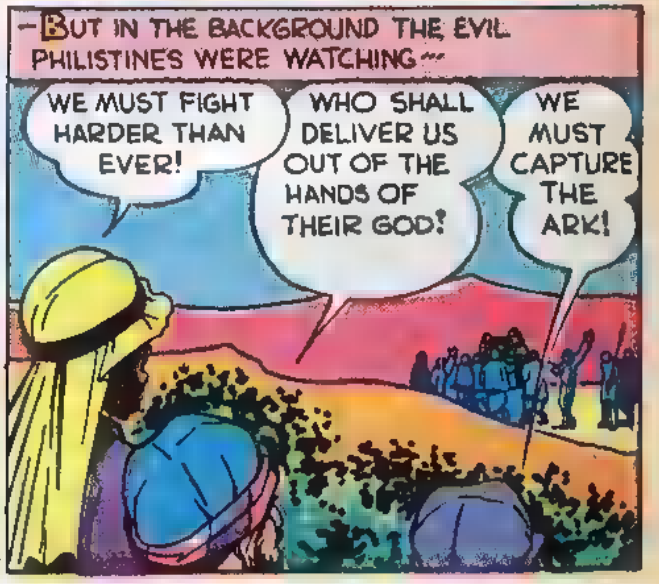
- AFTER THIS HAD HAPPENED THREE TIMES
IF THE VOICE CALLS AGAIN, YOU MUST ANSWER "SPEAK, LORD!" FOR IT IS THE LORD GOD CALLING YOU!
I WILL, ELI!

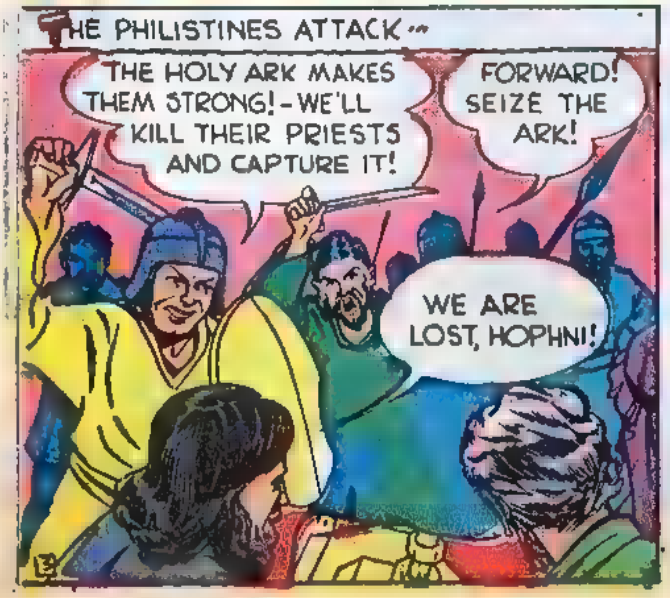

LATER -
SAMUEL!
SPEAK, LORD! FOR I LISTEN!


I WILL JUDGE ELI, BECAUSE HIS SONS HAVE MADE THEMSELVES VILE, AND HE HAS NOT STOPPED THEM!-I WILL MAKE AN END OF ELI AND HIS FAMILY!

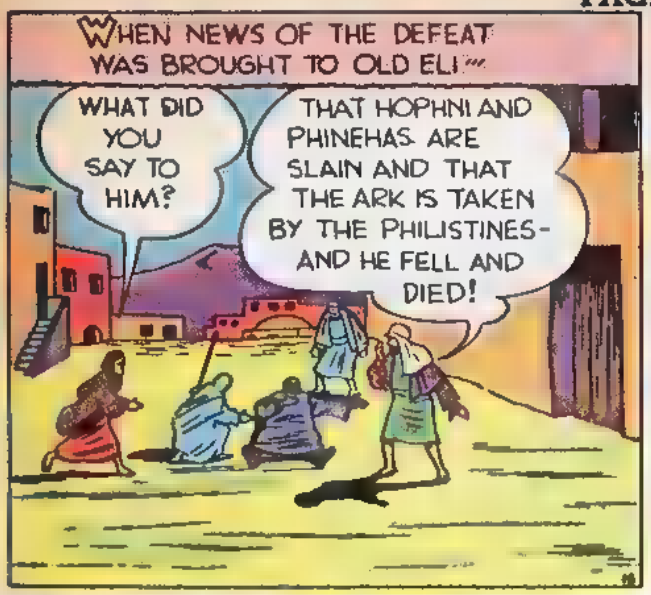
LATER SAMUEL TELLS ELI WHAT THE LORD TOLD HIM--
DON'T HIDE FROM ME ANYTHING THAT GOD SAID TO YOU!
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DESTROY YOU, PHINEHAS AND HOPHNI!

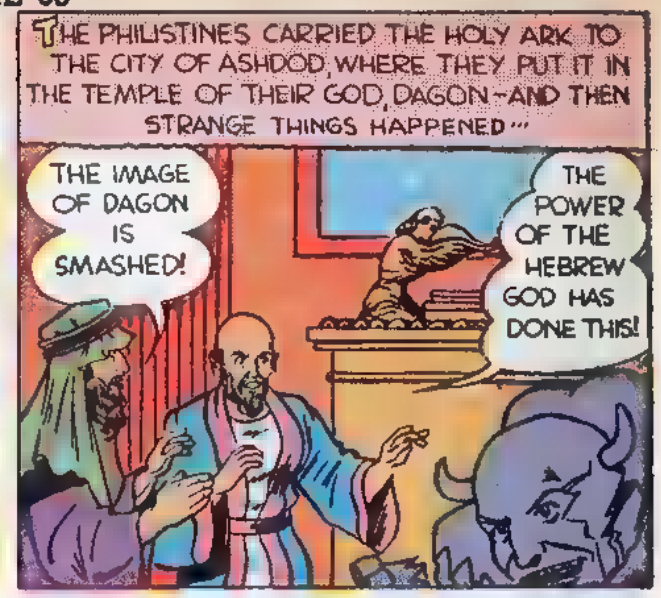

AND THEN WAR CAME BETWEEN SAMUEL'S PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES-ISRAEL LOST A GREAT BATTLE-TO HEARTEN THE DISCOURAGED ARMY, ELI'S SONS, THE PRIESTS HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS, CARRIED INTO THE ISRAELITE CAMP, THE ARK OF THE COVENANT FROM THE GREAT TEMPLE-A HOLY CHEST IN WHICH WERE KEPT THE TABLETS OF THE LAW AND OTHER SACRED OBJECTS--

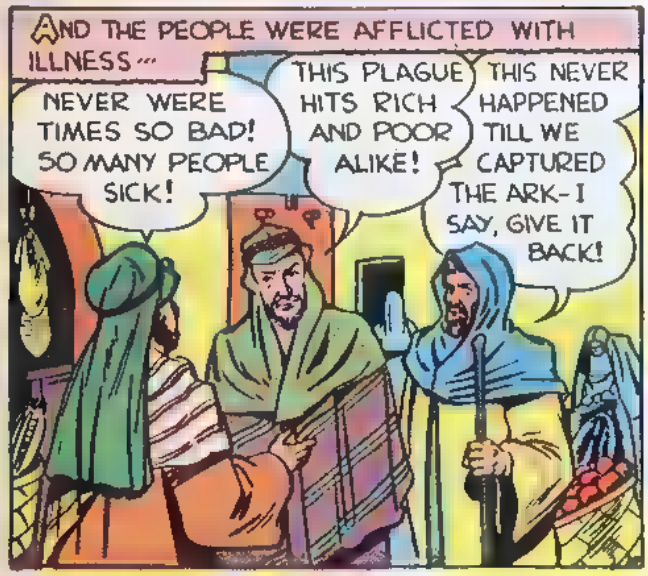

-BUT IN THE BACKGROUND THE EVIL PHILISTINES WERE WATCHING--
WE MUST FIGHT HARDER THAN EVER!
WHO SHALL DELIVER US OUT OF THE HANDS OF THEIR GOD!
WE MUST CAPTURE THE ARK!

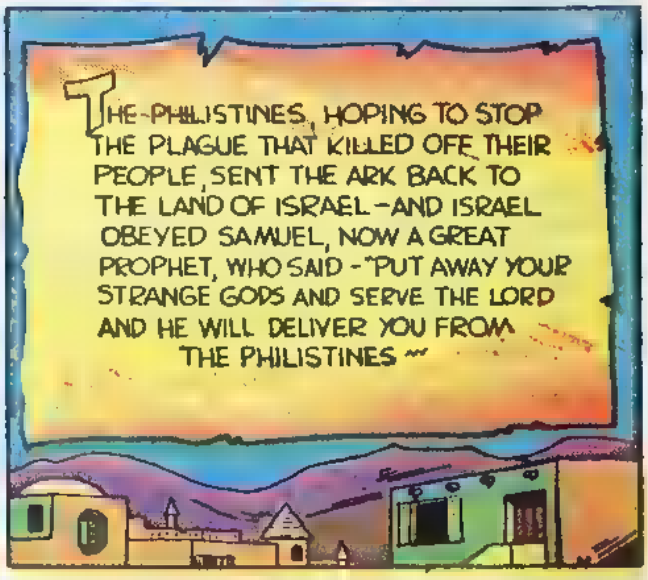

THE PHILISTINES ATTACK--
THE HOLY ARK MAKES THEM STRONG!-WE'LL KILL THEIR PRIESTS AND CAPTURE IT!
FORWARD! SEIZE THE ARK!
WE ARE LOST, HOPHNI!

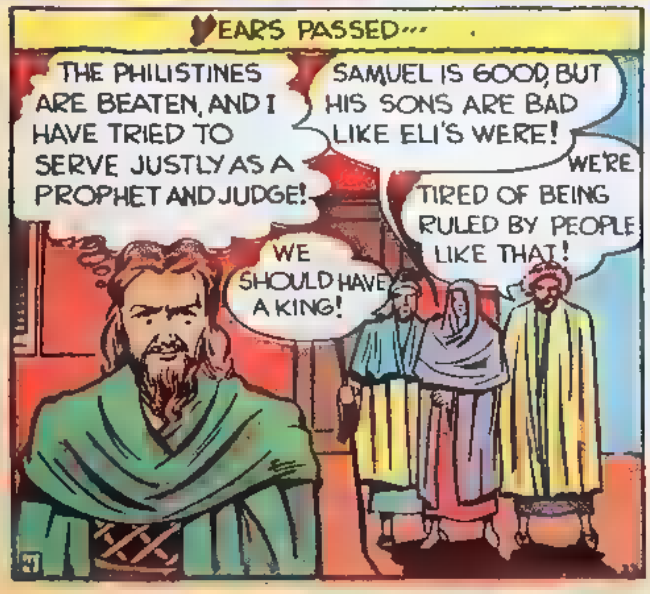
THE SONS OF ELI WERE SLAIN AND THE HOLY ARK WAS CAPTURED--

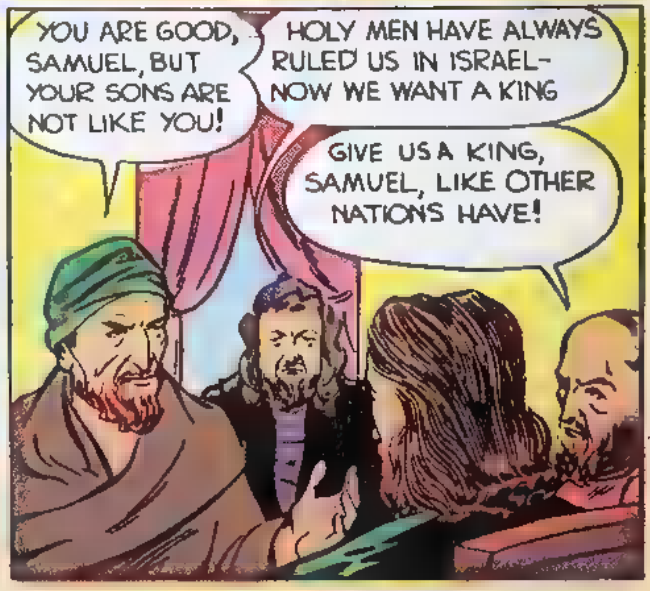

WHEN NEWS OF THE DEFEAT WAS BROUGHT TO OLD ELI ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM?
THAT HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS ARE SLAIN AND THAT THE ARK IS TAKEN BY THE PHILISTINES - AND HE FELL AND DIED!

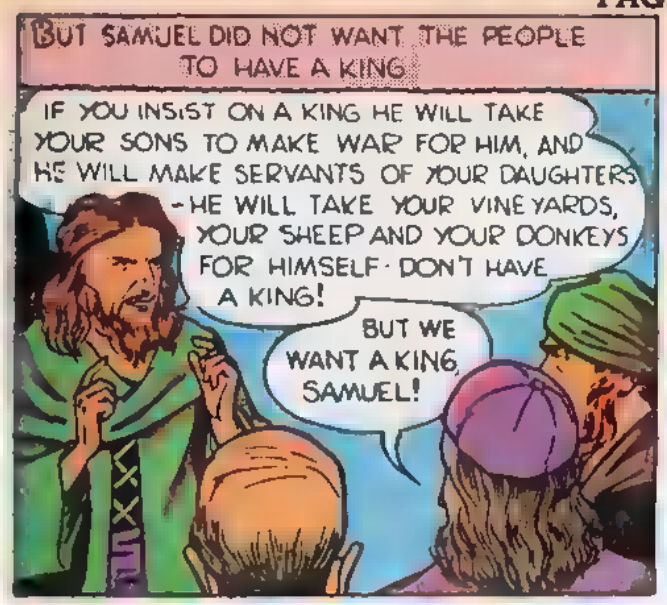

THE PHILISTINES CARRIED THE HOLY ARK TO THE CITY OF ASHDOD, WHERE THEY PUT IT IN THE TEMPLE OF THEIR GOD, DAGON - AND THEN STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED ...
THE IMAGE OF DAGON IS SMASHED!
THE POWER OF THE HEBREW GOD HAS DONE THIS!


AND THE PEOPLE WERE AFFLICTED WITH ILLNESS ...
NEVER WERE TIMES SO BAD! SO MANY PEOPLE SICK!
THIS PLAGUE HITS RICH AND POOR ALIKE!
THIS NEVER HAPPENED TILL WE CAPTURED THE ARK - I SAY, GIVE IT BACK!

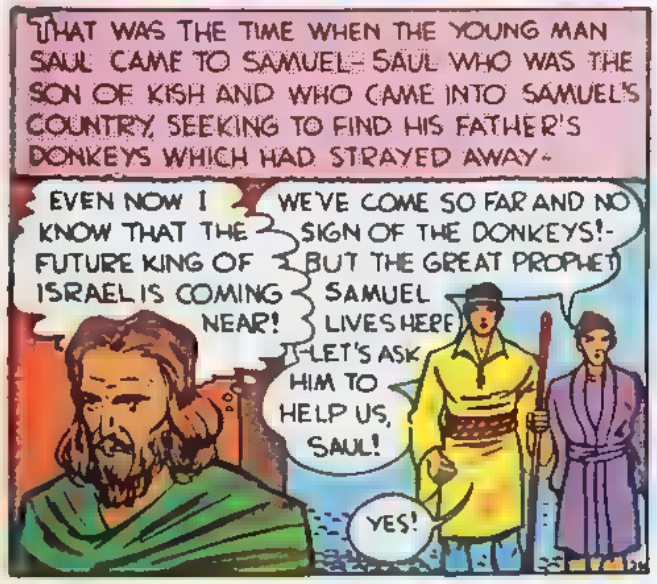

THE PHILISTINES, HOPING TO STOP THE PLAGUE THAT KILLED OFF THEIR PEOPLE, SENT THE ARK BACK TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL - AND ISRAEL OBEYED SAMUEL, NOW A GREAT PROPHET, WHO SAID - "PUT AWAY YOUR STRANGE GODS AND SERVE THE LORD AND HE WILL DELIVER YOU FROM THE PHILISTINES ..."

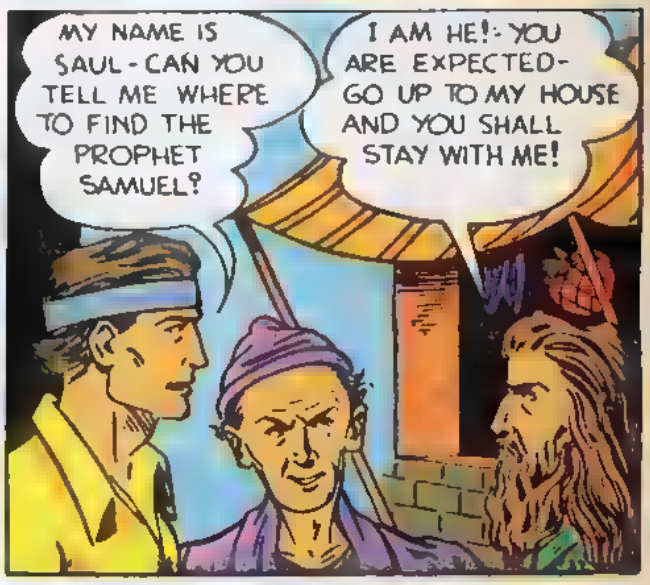

YEARS PASSED ...
THE PHILISTINES ARE BEATEN, AND I HAVE TRIED TO SERVE JUSTLY AS A PROPHET AND JUDGE!
SAMUEL IS GOOD, BUT HIS SONS ARE BAD LIKE ELI'S WERE!
WE'RE TIRED OF BEING RULED BY PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
WE SHOULD HAVE A KING!

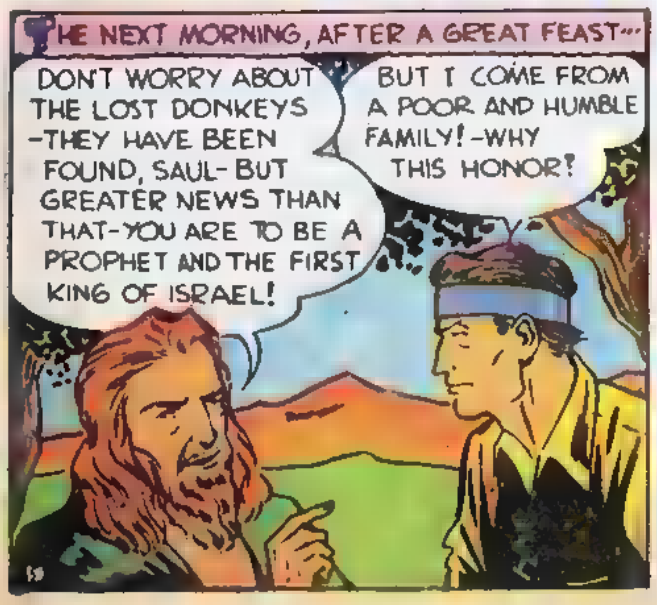

YOU ARE GOOD, SAMUEL, BUT YOUR SONS ARE NOT LIKE YOU!
HOLY MEN HAVE ALWAYS RULED US IN ISRAEL - NOW WE WANT A KING
GIVE US A KING, SAMUEL, LIKE OTHER NATIONS HAVE!

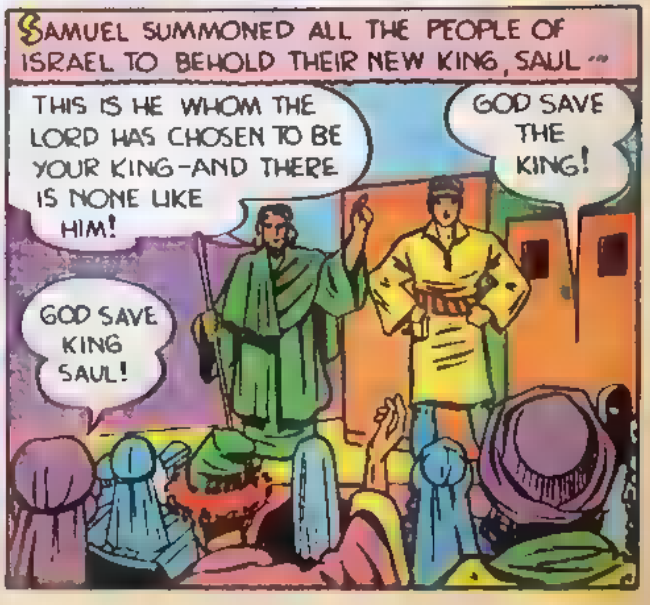

BUT SAMUEL DID NOT WANT THE PEOPLE TO HAVE A KING
IF YOU INSIST ON A KING HE WILL TAKE YOUR SONS TO MAKE WAR FOR HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE SERVANTS OF YOUR DAUGHTERS -HE WILL TAKE YOUR VINEYARDS, YOUR SHEEP AND YOUR DONKEYS FOR HIMSELF · DON'T HAVE A KING!
BUT WE WANT A KING, SAMUEL!

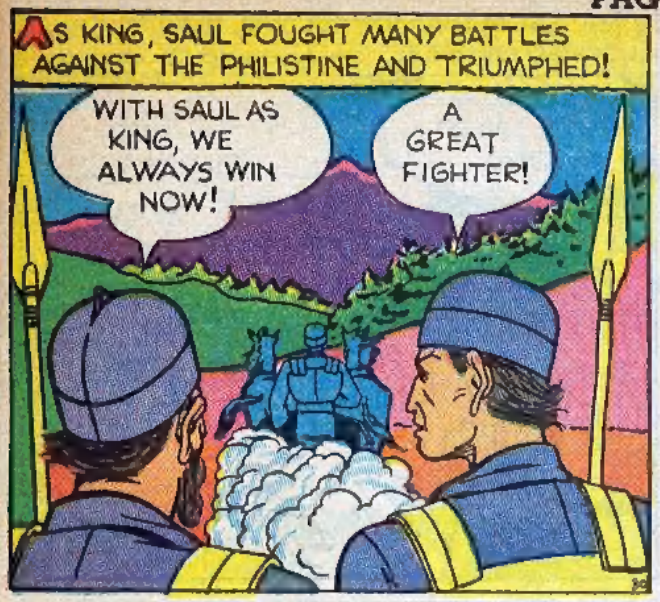
SO SAMUEL TALKED TO GOD OF ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED ~
LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, SAMUEL, AND GIVE THEM A KING ~ I WILL LEAD YOU TO CHOOSE A GOOD MAN!

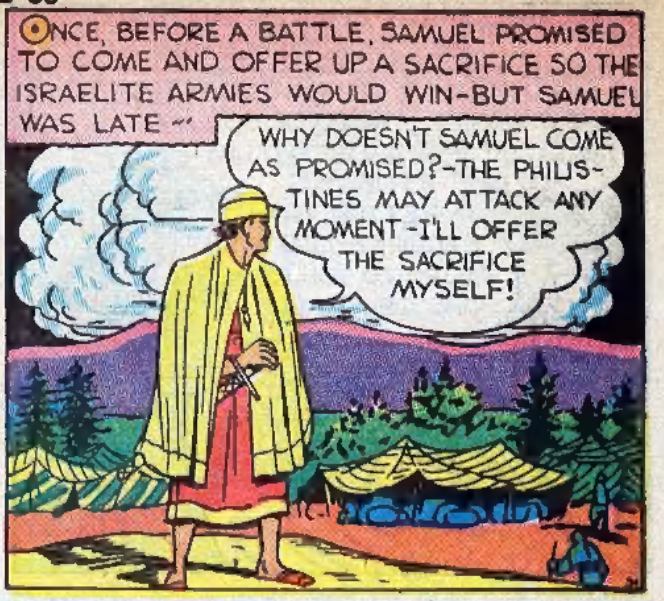

THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN THE YOUNG MAN SAUL CAME TO SAMUEL- SAUL WHO WAS THE SON OF KISH AND WHO CAME INTO SAMUEL'S COUNTRY, SEEKING TO FIND HIS FATHER'S DONKEYS WHICH HAD STRAYED AWAY ~
EVEN NOW I KNOW THAT THE FUTURE KING OF ISRAEL IS COMING NEAR!
WE'VE COME SO FAR AND NO SIGN OF THE DONKEYS! - BUT THE GREAT PROPHET SAMUEL LIVES HERE! - LET'S ASK HIM TO HELP US, SAUL!
YES!


MY NAME IS SAUL - CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE PROPHET SAMUEL?
I AM HE! - YOU ARE EXPECTED - GO UP TO MY HOUSE AND YOU SHALL STAY WITH ME!


THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER A GREAT FEAST ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE LOST DONKEYS - THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND, SAUL - BUT GREATER NEWS THAN THAT - YOU ARE TO BE A PROPHET AND THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL!
BUT I COME FROM A POOR AND HUMBLE FAMILY! - WHY THIS HONOR?

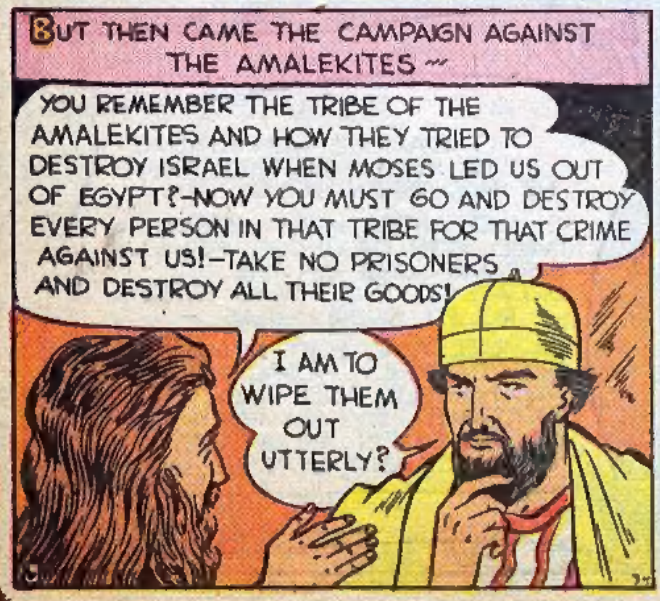

SAMUEL SUMMONED ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO BEHOLD THEIR NEW KING, SAUL ...
THIS IS HE WHOM THE LORD HAS CHOSEN TO BE YOUR KING - AND THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM!
GOD SAVE THE KING!
GOD SAVE KING SAUL!

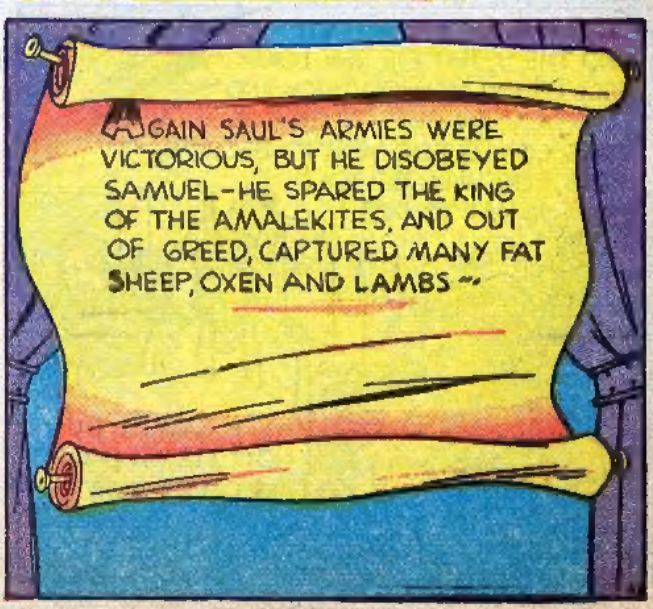

AS KING, SAUL FOUGHT MANY BATTLES AGAINST THE PHILISTINE AND TRIUMPHED!
WITH SAUL AS KING, WE ALWAYS WIN NOW!
A GREAT FIGHTER!


ONCE, BEFORE A BATTLE, SAMUEL PROMISED TO COME AND OFFER UP A SACRIFICE SO THE ISRAELITE ARMIES WOULD WIN-BUT SAMUEL WAS LATE ~
WHY DOESN'T SAMUEL COME AS PROMISED?-THE PHILISTINES MAY ATTACK ANY MOMENT-I'LL OFFER THE SACRIFICE MYSELF!

BUT YOU WERE LATE, AND I THOUGHT I WOULD DO IT MYSELF!
IMPATIENT KING, YOU HAVE OFFENDED GOD!-YOU DID WRONG!

NEVERTHELESS, SAUL REMAINS KING AND WITH HIS SON JONATHAN, A STRONG WARRIOR, CONTINUES TO WIN VICTORIES AGAINST THE PHILISTINE ENEMY~
AGAIN WE TRIUMPH, MY SON JONATHAN!
TOGETHER WE ARE INVINCIBLE, FATHER!
ALL THIS VICTORY IS GOING TO THEIR HEADS!

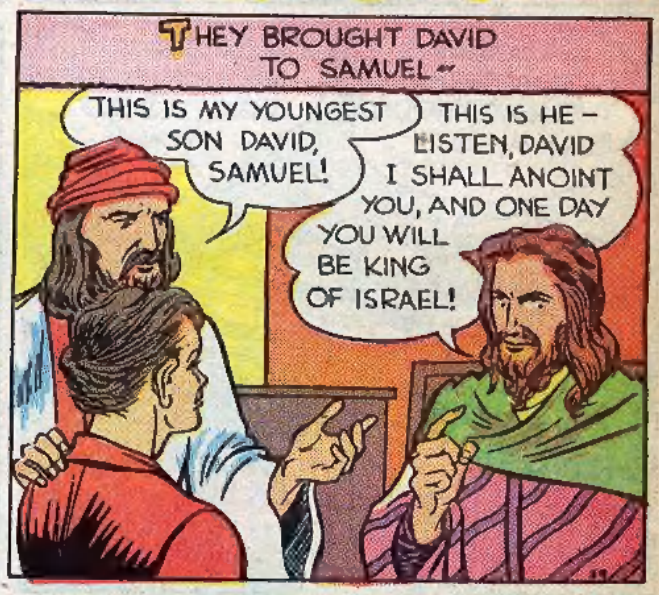

BUT THEN CAME THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE AMALEKITES ~
YOU REMEMBER THE TRIBE OF THE AMALEKITES AND HOW THEY TRIED TO DESTROY ISRAEL WHEN MOSES LED US OUT OF EGYPT?-NOW YOU MUST GO AND DESTROY EVERY PERSON IN THAT TRIBE FOR THAT CRIME AGAINST US!-TAKE NO PRISONERS AND DESTROY ALL THEIR GOODS!
I AM TO WIPE THEM OUT UTTERLY?


AGAIN SAUL'S ARMIES WERE VICTORIOUS, BUT HE DISOBEYED SAMUEL-HE SPARED THE KING OF THE AMALEKITES, AND OUT OF GREED, CAPTURED MANY FAT SHEEP, OXEN AND LAMBS ~

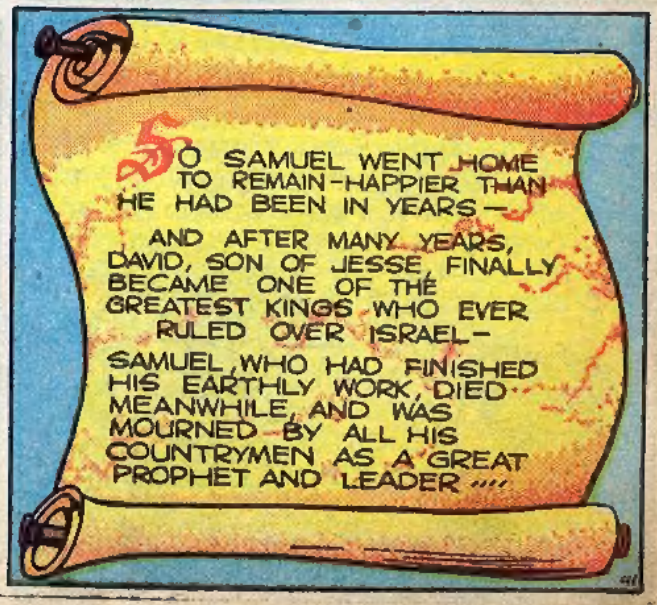
SAMUEL, ANGRY, REBUKES SAUL FOR HIS DISOBEDIENCE ~
I DID DISOBEY, BUT IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WORD OF GOD AND DISOBEYED HIM- TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE-GOD HAS REJECTED YOU AS KING OF ISRAEL!

AND FROM THAT DAY SAMUEL NEVER LOOKED ON SAUL'S FACE AGAIN ~
IF ONLY SAUL HADN'T FAILED AS KING!
HOW LONG WILL YOU MOURN FOR HIM? NOW YOU MUST FIND A NEW KING FOR ISRAEL- -GO TO BETHLEHEM AND I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!

IN BETHLEHEM, SAMUEL SOUGHT OUT JESSE -FOR GOD HAD SAID THAT THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL WOULD BE ONE OF JESSE'S SONS-
-AND THIS IS SHAMMAH, MY SEVENTH SON!
NO, I AM SURE HE IS NOT THE ONE NOR ANY OF THE OTHERS- -HAVE YOU NO OTHER SON?
WHY YES, THERE'S DAVID!- HE'S TEND-ING THE SHEEP!


THEY BROUGHT DAVID TO SAMUEL ~
THIS IS MY YOUNGEST SON DAVID, SAMUEL!
THIS IS HE - LISTEN, DAVID I SHALL ANOINT YOU, AND ONE DAY YOU WILL BE KING OF ISRAEL!

YOU ARE ANOINTED, DAVID, AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL BE ON YOU-GO BACK AND TEND YOUR SHEEP-WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR YOU TO BECOME KING, YOU WILL BE TOLD WHAT TO DO!
YES, SAMUEL, BUT NOW I'LL GO BACK AND CARE FOR MY LAMBS-WHEN CALLED, I SHALL BE READY!


SO SAMUEL WENT HOME TO REMAIN-HAPPIER THAN HE HAD BEEN IN YEARS-
AND AFTER MANY YEARS, DAVID, SON OF JESSE, FINALLY BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST KINGS WHO EVER RULED OVER ISRAEL-
SAMUEL, WHO HAD FINISHED HIS EARTHLY WORK, DIED MEANWHILE, AND WAS MOURNED BY ALL HIS COUNTRYMEN AS A GREAT PROPHET AND LEADER ....

In presenting this third Old Testament issue of PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE, the publisher wishes to express his thanks to the hundreds of thousands of American boys and girls (as well as to their parents) for their splendid support — and also to the thousands of ministers and Sunday School teachers of every denomination, throughout the United States, who have made such effective use of the first two issues in their classes.

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THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH, the exile at the court of Babylon who got permission from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the great wall, destroyed in war.
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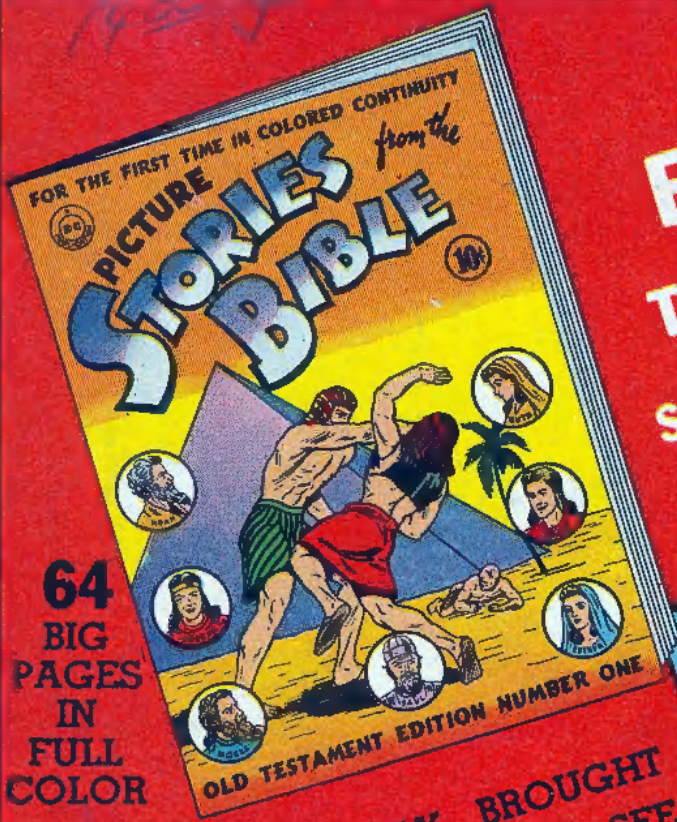

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